

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Historian Lord Dacre replies to his critics and explains how he "rashly" authenticated the forged Hitler diaries.

The lure and lore of fly fishing features in tomorrow's edition of *Saturday*, the eight-page arts and leisure section published each week with *The Times*.

Swindler of disc jockey jailed

Basil Wainwright, aged 49, a businessman, of Birmingham, was jailed at Worcester Crown Court yesterday for three years for swindling Noel Edmonds, the disc jockey, of £240,000.

Riots warning for students

M. Pierre Marroy, the French Prime Minister, gave a warning that student protests against higher education reform might be exploited by right-wing extremists. He said the reform would not be halted.

More charges

Four further charges of murder and two of attempted murder were put to Dennis Nilson, a former probationary policeman, when he made his sixteenth court appearance in London.

Ulster attack

A man who was attacked and injured by eight masked men in his home in Londonderry was told he must leave the city by August 1.

Collier offer

The management of John Collier is proposing to buy out the newscaster shops from UDS, the retail chain now controlled by Hanson Trust.

Grants up 4%

The annual grant to degree-course students will go up by 4 per cent this autumn, from £1,595 to £1,660 outside London, Sir Keith Joseph announced.

'Peace' charges

Ten women arrested during the Greenham Common peace camp eviction appeared before Newbury magistrates on charges of causing a breach of the peace and criminal damage.

£40m order

A £40m Mexican order for two bulk carriers won by British Shipbuilders will ensure work for 1,200 men for two years.

Lion at large

A lion which escaped from a travelling circus roamed the streets of Didcot, Oxfordshire, for 30 minutes last night before it was recaptured in a garage.

Foster appeal

Steve Foster, the Brighton captain who is banned from playing in the FA Cup Final on May 21, has appealed to the High Court to lift his suspension.

Leader page, 15
Letters: On the election, from Mrs M. R. Mibill, and others; airline compensation, from Mr H. Caplan, and Mr A. J. Lucking; cretin sniffing, from Mr V. H. Crelfin, and Mr C. Kelly.
Leading articles: SDP manifesto; South Africa; The Speaker's Features, pages 12-14
Why war clouds are gathering over Lebanon again; Bernard Levin on a new victim of Soviet persecution; A warning to Mrs Thatcher on poll precedents; Spectrum: Stately homes for sale; Friday Page: Penny Perick meets Judith Krantz; Medical Briefing; page 16
Mr Marmaduke T. Tudsbery

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Cut in jobless but no extra inflation is aim of Alliance

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A crisis programme designed to reduce unemployment by one million within two years without increasing inflation was offered yesterday by the Liberal Social Democratic Party Alliance in its manifesto, entitled: "A Joint Programme for Government".

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, said at its launch that the Alliance hoped to pay for the programme by allowing a £3,000m increase in government borrowing and cancelling Trident, and added that the measure would in part pay for themselves through savings in unemployment benefit.

To stimulate growth, the Alliance proposes selective public capital investment in such things as railway electrification, roadbuilding, hospitals and housing. It would also abolish the national insurance surcharge. These measures, it calculates, would yield 400,000 new jobs in two years.

It hopes to provide the remaining 600,000 jobs for the long-term unemployed in housing, and environmental programmes, extending the youth training scheme to all 16- and 17-year-olds, and paying companies £80 a week for every extra job provided.

The Alliance says that its schemes are targeted on the neediest, the long-term unemployed and the young, to get the biggest early fall in unemployment at the lowest practical cost.

The Alliance's plan is underpinned, in a way that makes it

unique among the serious claimants to government, by an institutionalized incomes policy, "a fair and effective pay and prices policy that will stick", it claims.

In an echo of Labour's national economic assessment and of the forum proposed by the Conservatives in the past, the Alliance plans discussions with employers, unions and consumers to arrive each year at an "agreed norm or range" for pay settlements.

ON OTHER PAGES

Resettlement of
Alliance manifesto
Advertising battle
Last Question Time
David Watt
Leading article, letters
Frank Johnson

Some familiar items of apparatus would be there: an assessment board for public service pay to look for fair comparisons and a pay and price commission with powers to restrict price increases caused by wage settlements above the norm.

Behind that there would be legislation to impose a counter-inflation tax if necessary, and behind that again "a fully statutory incomes policy" if it was needed to prevent a stampede for pay while the long-term plans were worked out.

This formulation has caused strain between the Alliance partners and within the SDP. Yesterday, after Mrs Williams had referred several times to

curbs and norms, she was gently corrected by Baroness Sear, the Liberal economist, who said: "We are talking about a range rather than a fixed norm, are we not? And exempting small firms, because we want maximum flexibility and the minimum of bureaucracy."

Other parts of the joint platform which required some delicate negotiation to construct include the passage on defence where the Alliance proposes a middle way between Labour and the Conservatives. It is a way on which it cannot see very far ahead.

It says that participation in Nato must be the cornerstone of defence policy, but that Nato should move away from its excessive dependence on the early use of nuclear weapons.

It says that Polaris should be included in the Geneva talks on strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons, which should be merged, but says nothing about when Polaris should be phased out. Mr David Steel has said that he wants it phased out soon, while Dr David Owen has spoken of keeping it for the rest of its useful life.

On the deployment of cruise missiles, the authors of the manifesto again kick for touch. They say that the Geneva negotiations should be pursued to a successful conclusion.

"Before deciding whether or not to oppose the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain, an Alliance government would take account... of the negotiating position of the Soviet Union."

Continued on back page, col 2



'Legend in his lifetime' tribute to Speaker

Mr George Thomas, (photographed yesterday) who is retiring after over seven years as Speaker of the House of Commons, said, when MPs of all parties paid tribute to his distinguished services yesterday, that there was a meaning and a strength behind the traditions which he observed and he rejoiced to know that the House still guarded them.

There were cheers when Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Thomas had become a legend in his lifetime. "We say farewell to one of our greatest Speakers," she said, a sentiment echoed by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, who said how proud Tony had been of his son's high office.

Photograph: Harry Kerr Parliamentary report, page 6

Tests on animals to be restricted

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first change for more than 100 years in the regulations governing experiments on animals are proposed in a White Paper published yesterday. Stricter controls are recommended, which would bring a wider category of animal testing under protection.

But as for two of the most controversial issues are concerned experiments on animals to test cosmetics and the LD50 procedure of testing (under which batches of animals are forced until half of them die) the first will continue and the second is not mentioned.

The regulations would also permit a category of experiments that is prohibited under the existing Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876.

The new Act would allow the experimental use of animals for the acquisition of manual skills in microsurgery, but only under anaesthetic and with an obligation to use analgesia wherever necessary.

The way the White Paper has accommodated or ignored those three topics has already come in for criticism. Mr Brian Gunn, general secretary of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, said his society was bitterly disappointed with the proposals.

The White Paper says that experiments on living animals have to continue in the foreseeable future in order to protect man, animals, and the

environment. But animals must only be used under strictly defined circumstances, and where there are no reasonable alternatives.

They must have the best possible care and attention before and during their period in the laboratory. They must be spared all avoidable pain and distress.

The main changes in legislation suggested are: The replacement of a non-statutory advisory committee on animal experiments with a committee with legal powers to advise on questions of policy and procedures, including the development of alternatives to animals in experiments.

Extension of controls beyond pure experimentation to include animals used for procedures such as breeding for physical defects, the production of antisera and passage of tumours. This section would also cover procedures that interfere with an embryo or foetus within the maternal tract or not.

New controls would be extended to establishments which breed and supply animals to laboratories. Purpose-bred animals must be obtained from registered suppliers in scientific procedures. The use of strays would be forbidden.

Scientific Procedures on Living Animals. Cmd 8883, Stationery Office, £3.60.

Lebanon presses Syria to withdraw its troops

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, flew to Damascus yesterday to present President Assad of Syria with Lebanon's request for a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces from the country.

According to Lebanese officials, an agreement for an Israeli withdrawal is ready for signing, but Syrian acquiescence is crucial and there were no indications yesterday of Damascus dropping its objections to the withdrawal formula.

With Israel and Syria both warning of a new Middle East conflict, Syrian air force personnel aided by Soviet advisers have completed a 230-mile anti-aircraft missile defence system

to block any surprise Israeli attack.

Robert Fisk reports (page 8) that a chain of more than 100 missile sites - identifiable on American satellite pictures - is locked into a system of 30 early-warning stations that spread halfway across Syria towards Iraq.

In Washington, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has reported to President Reagan his confidence that Syria will eventually withdraw from Lebanon.

But, says Dr Fisk (page 14 feature) while Israel is concerned by the Soviet Union's increased military commitment in Syria, Moscow is worried by the new American involvement in Lebanon.

Lie detector to be used on security staff

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The use of the polygraph or lie detector in Britain is to be introduced as soon as possible as a result of a recommendation given to Parliament by the Security Commission yesterday.

The commission had been examining the circumstances under which Geoffrey Prime had been able to spy for the Russians from 1968 until 1981, during most of which time he was employed at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham, one of the highest security establishments in the country. Prime was jailed for 35 years at the Old Bailey last November.

The commission says that the polygraph is the only means which could have protected GCHQ from Prime's treachery.

The commission has therefore recommended that a pilot scheme using the polygraph should be introduced for screening in the security and intelligence services. The Prime Minister said yesterday in a written parliamentary reply to Mr Michael Foot, that the Government accept the commission's recommendation.

The commission's proposal is limited to the use of the polygraph to counter-intelligence examinations, for example the detection of approaches by hostile intelligence services. It will not be extended to cover questions of life-style such as drug-taking, sexual habits, financial matters and so on.

The report also recommends the introduction of random searches of staff as they leave GCHQ, and suggests that these might also be considered for other government establishments where large quantities of highly classified material are available.

Other recommendations affecting individuals working in the security and intelligence services are that, for positive vetting, individuals should be required to agree to allow access to their medical records, and that consideration should be given the introduction of psychological testing into the security screening of applicants for employment in the intelligence and security agencies.

The report says there is no positive evidence to contradict Prime's statement that he acted alone. "There have been intensive and extensive investigations, but no evidence had so far come to light to suggest that Prime had an accomplice or that the Soviet Union has, or had, another source of information within GCHQ."

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister said that investigations were continuing with a view to being as certain as possible on this point.

The report finds nothing to criticize in the activities of the men who carried out Prime's positive vetting in 1968, 1973, 1974 and 1976. "We cannot lay the blame for Prime's espionage upon the shoulders of those responsible for carrying out our present security procedures. It is

the procedures themselves that must be re-examined."

Prime was brought to justice when his second wife revealed his activities to the police. However, the report reveals that Prime's first wife, Helena (now Mrs Overy) had been told by him of his activities in 1973. She also told her close friend Miss Barsby.

The report records that Miss Barsby subsequently acted as a referee for Prime when his positive vetting was being reviewed, and told the investigating officer that "she had no reason to think Prime should not be entrusted with secret government work."

The commission describes Miss Barsby's action as "disgraceful", and says it is tragic that neither of these women had the courage to denounce him and so put a stop to his espionage in 1973.

It also notes that Prime consulted a psychiatrist in November 1972, and that if this had been known about it might



have raised a doubt about his fitness for positive vetting clearance.

The commission finds only one area in which the failure to take an obvious precaution facilitated Prime's espionage. This was a failure to check the counter on the photocopying machine, "which Prime used illicitly while at GCHQ Cheltenham". This would have revealed that Prime was using the machine and not entering the register.

The commission regards it as unlikely that this would actually have led to Prime's detection, and says that its contribution to the overall damage done by Prime was small.

The Prime Minister said that Prime's disclosures had caused exceptionally grave damage to the interests of Britain and its allies. The Security Commission's report is published in full, with the exception of its appendices which contained classified information.

A spokesman at GCHQ said last night: "It is the first we have heard of a person by the name of Barsby, but she is not, and has not been and employee here."

Security Commission report, page 6



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Professional people's pay

Plowden proposes 12% rise for top posts

● A report from the Review Body on Top Salaries, chaired by Lord Plowden, has warned the Government that justice, equity and the public interest demand pay increases averaging 12 per cent for senior people in Whitehall, the Armed Forces and the Judiciary.

● The Armed Forces are to get a 7.2 per cent rise, backdated to April 1. The review body noted excessive hours worked during the Falklands conflict but ruled out payment for specific operations.

● The Plowden Committee has recommended a 30.9 per cent pay rise for MPs, which would raise their salaries from £14,510 to £19,000. Cabinet ministers should be given a rise of 47 per cent, taking them from £37,400 to £55,000.

● The Government has offered doctors and dentists an immediate pay rise of 6 per cent, to be followed by 2.7 per cent next January. The average GP's salary would rise to £20,670 and the average dentist's to £17,890.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Government has been warned that justice, equity and the public interest demand pay increases averaging 12 per cent for the top 1,832 people in Whitehall, the Armed Forces and the Judiciary.

A report from the Review Body on Top Salaries, chaired by Lord Plowden, said yesterday: "To award salaries less than these would fail to do justice to those carrying the onerous responsibilities of the most senior positions in the Civil Service and the Armed Forces, and of the Judiciary."

"To continue to depress the salaries for these groups below the justified levels would not only be inequitable, but in the longer term against the public interest."

The report said that an increase of 5 per cent was needed to restore salaries to the level which was recommended for April, 1982. A further

increase of 6.9 per cent was urged on top of that readjusted salary.

Detailed recommendations included £60,000 for the Lord Chief Justice, an increase of 14.3 per cent on £52,500, and £68,000 for the Secretary of the Cabinet, the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Admirals of the Fleet, Field Marshals, and Marshals of the Royal Air Force, an increase of 13.2 per cent on £37,750.

Whitehall's 490 under-secretaries are recommended for an increase of 11 per cent, from £25,000 to £27,750. The armed forces' 158 rear-admirals, major-generals and air vice-marshals are recommended for the same increase.

For the purposes of its examination, the review body obtained comparative information on the pay, bonuses, commission and profit-sharing income received by people in



Forty years on: Smoke pouring from a Messerschmitt 108 (above) on the run from a Spitfire over London yesterday after a simulated dogfight near Tower Bridge.

The Spitfire was flown by Mr Ray Hanna (far left), a former leader of the Red Arrows aerobatic team, whose syndicate bought the aircraft for £260,000. The

vanquished Messerschmitt was piloted by its owner, Mr Lindsay Walton, who is a Lincolnshire farmer.

The mock dogfight will be repeated at an international air fair sponsored by Accim, a clock firm, and to be held at Biggin Hill, Kent, the former Second World War air base, tomorrow and on Sunday.

Science report

Quasars are where they appear to be

By the Staff of Nature

Strong new evidence in favour of the more conventional of the two main theories about the nature of quasars has been produced by Dr Peter Shaver, of the European Southern Observatory, near Munich, and Dr Gordon Robertson, of the Anglo-Australian Observatory in New South Wales.

The question about quasars (or "quasi-stars", which in a telescope look like stars, but in reality are much brighter and farther away) is why their waves of light are stretched out and thereby reddened (red-shifted).

The conventional view has been that quasars are cosmological objects, participating like galaxies in the general expansion of the Universe. In the expansion, the farther away the quasar, the faster it will recede. And the faster it recedes, the more its light will be red-shifted by the Doppler effect - better known for the way it appears to stretch and deepen the note of an aircraft engine as it passes overhead.

An alternative, unconventional theory is that the red-shift is, in part at least, intrinsic to the quasars. That seems unlikely because the only conceivable source of an intrinsic red-shift is the presence of such high gravitational fields on quasars that one would expect them to collapse rapidly. The idea persists, however, because even on the conventional view quasars are peculiar objects. They are, for example, extraordinarily bright for their apparent size.

Dr Shaver and Dr Robertson have now shown that the conventional picture is probably correct - by adopting a new and elegant technique which takes advantage of the recent discovery of clouds of gas around quasars. They look for quasars that are apparently close together in the sky but of different red-shifts.

On the conventional view, the one with larger red-shift will be farther away and so its light will shine through the clouds of gas that surround the one with smaller red-shift. This will cause absorption of the light of the quasar with larger red-shift and the absorption should be at the lower red-shift of the nearer quasar. The light of the lower red-shift quasar, by contrast, should never exhibit absorption by clouds of higher red-shift than itself.

On the unconventional view, however, the red-shift of the quasar does not determine its distance, so either the higher or the lower red-shift quasar might be in front and therefore absorption could go in either direction.

In a preliminary sample of 11 known quasars, "said Dr Shaver and Dr Robertson found four where the higher red-shift quasar showed clear absorption at the lower red-shift, but none where the reverse was the case. These results are not conclusive; the sample needs to be larger, but they certainly begin to sound the death-knell for the unconventional theory.

Source: Nature, vol 303 p 155, (May 12, 1983).
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Forces get 7.2% for long hours

By John Witherow

The Falklands conflict was not a factor in a recommendation of a 7.2 per cent rise for the armed services, the review body of Armed Forces pay said in its report published yesterday.

It maintained that it would be "inconsistent to add to the military salary concept the notion of payment for specific operations". None the less, such operations could lead to excessive hours, as in Northern Ireland, and pay awards took that into account.

The recommendation was accepted in full by the Government and backdated to April 1. The review body estimated that the overall cost will be £164.8m after increased charges for food and accommodation were taken into account for the country's 330,000 Servicemen.

Officers' pay has been raised by between 4 and 9 per cent and the salaries of Servicemen and women go up by between 6 and 9.2 per cent. The Government's postponement of a decision on Top Salaries Review Body will mean that for the moment a brigadier will be earning £25,001, more than a major-general.

The review body recommended an increase of 12 per cent in accommodation charges and 4.8 per cent for food. But it also increased special allowances. Servicemen in Northern Ireland will get an extra £2.15 a day, an increase of 15p. The separation allowance

30.9% is urged for MPs

By Our Political Correspondent

The Plowden Committee yesterday recommended a 32.7 per cent increase, worth £3.6m a year, in the pay bill for ministers, MPs and other parliamentary office-holders.

The report urged Parliament to approve an increase of 30.9 per cent for MPs, giving them an annual salary of £19,000.

The proposed rises for the Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition are greater. It was reported that the Prime Minister should receive a total annual payment of £65,000, including an £11,000 parliamentary allowance. The pre-set salary is £46,660.

The proportionate increase for the Leader of the Opposition, is even greater, at 47.7 per cent, taking the salary from £35,035, including the current parliamentary allowance of £8,450, to £51,660.

The largest percentage increase was recommended for Cabinet ministers in the Commons - 47 per cent, taking them from £37,400, with parliamentary allowance, to £55,000.

A 418-page volume of surveys designed to underlie the recommendations includes the information that the average backbench MP works 62.3 hours week.

Review Body on Top Salaries. Report Number 20. Review of Parliamentary Pay and Allowance. Two volumes, not yet officially published by Stationery Office.

Right sweeps in on union executive

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The leadership of the largest Civil Service union took another violent political shift yesterday when election results showed an almost clean sweep of executive seats by right-wingers.

A 24-4 majority on the Civil and Public Services Association executive for the left was transformed into a 23-5 victory by the right. Mr Kevin Roddy, the president, who supports the Militant Tendency, was beaten by Mrs Kate Losinska, a long-time opponent of the left.

The new executive, which takes over today, will have to decide how to handle several left-wing motions backed by the union conference this week.

Afterwards the conference voted to instruct the new executive to campaign among the members for affiliation to the Labour Party, which most of the right-wing group opposed.

It has been suggested that the right was well organized this year, but union officials said dramatic swings between left and right would continue as long as the political groupings published voting "slates" in propaganda material.

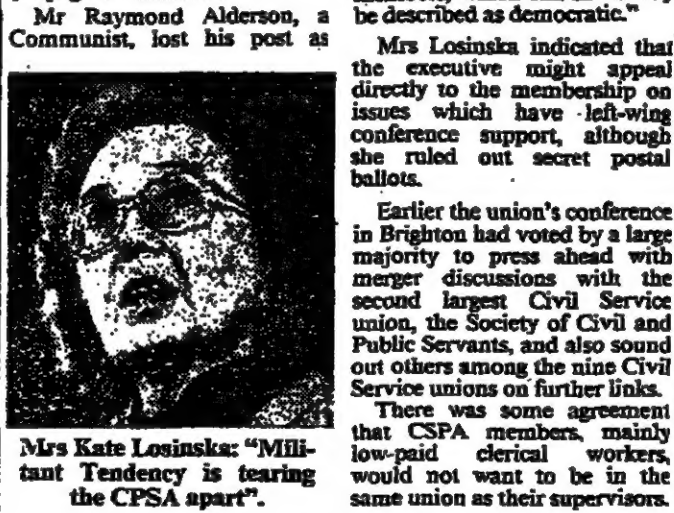
Mr Raymond Alderson, a Communist, lost his post as senior vice-president, but he won one of the five executive seats which went to the left.

Militant Tendency, which had eight supporters on the executive, now only has one, and Mrs Losinska said last night: "CPSA mirrors the present state of the Labour Party. Militant Tendency is tearing the Labour Party apart, just as it is tearing the CPSA apart." She will now press for the changes, to try to produce higher turnouts.

The election was conducted on a "pithed" ballot system, with members voting at meetings in offices where they work. Since it replaced conference block voting in 1980, the system has produced widely differing political majorities. About 35 per cent of the membership voted this time.

Mr Alderson accused newspapers, including The Times and Sunday Mirror, of interfering in the election. "People like Bernard Levin and Woodrow Wyatt say they believe in democracy in the trade union movement, but they give only one side of the argument to members, which can in no way be described as democratic."

Mrs Losinska indicated that the executive might appeal directly to the membership on issues which have left-wing conference support, although she ruled out secret postal ballots.



Mrs Kate Losinska: "Militant Tendency is tearing the CPSA apart."

Labour may 'reopen' Croxteth school

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The new Labour regime in Liverpool is to try to reestablish Croxteth comprehensive school, which has been occupied and run by rebel parents for the past year on volunteer labour and donations.

A motion proposed by Mr Dominic Brady, who is expected to be confirmed as the new education committee chairman, will be considered at the full council meeting next Tuesday. If it is passed, as expected, Liverpool will seek legal opinion whether they can reestablish the school in the face of opposition from Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education. It is hoped to set it up as a free school.

The loyalty to Croxteth school has been extraordinary. The 40 parents who occupied it after Sir Keith confirmed the closure on July 13 last year have been confronted with a huge rates demand of £70,000. Electricity and telephones were cut off.

Initially they were told that pupils would not be allowed to take public examinations, but that decision has been reversed and next month 23 pupils will take O levels and CSE. The 150 children are being taught by unpaid volunteer teachers.

Originally, under the old Liberal-run Liverpool council, there was party political agreement that Croxteth school should be closed as part of a reorganization of the city's schools.

Liverpool had been slow to reorganize its schools in line with declining pupil numbers and central government became so exasperated with what they saw as the resulting inefficiency and waste of money that Sir Keith intervened.

After Croxteth was closed the Labour Party, responding to the parents' protest, which on occasion involved throwing eggs at Mr Michael Heseltine, committed itself to reestablishing the school.

Scargill seeks merger with steel union

From Paul Riddell, Labour Editor, Sheffield

The miners are to seek a merger with the steel workers to create a 300,000-member industrial union dedicated to halting any further rundown in their nationalized enterprises.

The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers decided yesterday to make overtures to the largest union in state steel, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, for a new joint organization.

The NUM is likely to absorb the 7,000-member Amalgamated Society of Wire Drawers, a Sheffield-based steel sector union, after the miners move to new headquarters in the city.

But the merger of the miners and the confederation would create an altogether more formidable opposition to the rationalization policies of Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of British Steel, who takes up the post of chairman of the National Coal Board in September.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing president of the NUM, who would undoubtedly become leader of the merged steel union, said yesterday that a merger of federation was "a logical step to take".

The prospect of a merger has been raised informally with Mr William Slim, general secretary of the confederation, but no formal talks have taken place.

Doctors and dentists offered 8.7%

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The Government last night offered doctors and dentists an immediate pay rise of 6 per cent, to be followed by 2.7 per cent next January, in response to its thirteenth report of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, published yesterday.

The offer delays implementation of the review body's full recommendations for nine months, but would restore in full the cut imposed by the Government in 1981.

Indeed, the review body says that it is a matter of deep concern to us that government decisions mean that doctors' and dentists' pay is below the levels recommended as appropriate for the second year in successive years.

The offer, which is subject to negotiation, would raise the average GP's salary from £18,990 to £20,160 immediately, with that award backdated to April 1. Next January the average would rise to £20,670.

The average salaries of dentists would go up from £16,435 to £17,890 next January. A new system for establishing dentists' remuneration is expected to be introduced next year under the Dentists' Bill.

Army pay rises

	Present	Recommended
Brigadier	£22,750	£25,001
Colonel	£18,998	£20,160
Major	£16,337	£17,864
Captain	£12,103	£13,224
Lieut	£9,574	£10,453
Lieut	£7,674	£8,337
WO1	£6,249	£6,800
Sergeant	£5,380	£5,795
Private IV	£4,249	£4,513

These are basic figures on appointment

'Foreign seamen for Cunarders'

By Barrie Clement

Two new Cunard cruise ships are to be crewed entirely by foreign seafarers while about 1,000 of the 5,000 merchant navy volunteers for the South Atlantic are out of work, the seamen's union said yesterday.

The two new vessels, which will cost the company about £4.7m are being bought from a Norwegian line and are to be transferred to the Bahamian "flag of convenience" on delivery in October.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said: "It is a cruel blow to all those who served in the South Atlantic, but it is particularly cruel to the 1,000 volunteer seamen who served on the five Cunard ships in the Falklands area during last year."

They deserve better rewards than to see jobs which are rightfully theirs go to foreign seafarers."

Mr Slater added: "This whole episode shows that for companies like Cunard, which regularly donates large amounts of money to Tory funds, patriotism is always for others to follow and should never be allowed to interfere with the business of making bigger profits."

He accused the company of ignoring British defence needs by planning to register the vessel, the Vista Fjord and the Saga Fjord, under a flag of convenience.

"In time of war the British Government would not have direct access to these British-owned ships flying foreign flags," he said. The union would try to persuade Cunard to fly the British flag on the ships and employ British seamen.

IRA attack with pieces of cement

From Our Correspondent

A Londonderry man who was attacked by eight masked men early yesterday morning, said in hospital that he had been told by the men that he would have to "leave the city by August 1 or suffer the consequences."

Mr Dennis Healy, aged 44, the father of 13, had his hands fractured by the men, who beat him with pieces of broken concrete.

Mr Healy said he had heard a noise at home and went downstairs to investigate. He was confronted by eight masked men who told him they were from the IRA.

"They pushed me into a room and ordered me to sit down. Then I asked them what they wanted they told me to shut up," Mr Healy said.

One of the men kept his wife and four of his children, aged between 11 and 18, upstairs in their home, in Coshhill Park.

"I was taken out to the back of the house. I was spread eagle on the ground and my hands were held while they were pounded with pieces of cement. I started to scream with pain," he said. "Suddenly it was all over. Mr Healy, who had been in hospital for two weeks, came to my aid, took me into the house and treated my wounds and sent for an ambulance."

Mr Healy, who said that about five years ago he had been shot in the leg by terrorists in the Bogside area, added: "I do not know why I was attacked. When I asked the men this morning, they told me to shut up."

Health experts puzzled by babies' illness

The condition of six new babies suspected of contracting an infection at Heatherwood Hospital, near Ascot, Berkshire, remained unchanged yesterday after the closure of the hospital's 107-bed maternity and gynaecological unit.

Biological tests by the East Berkshire Health District have so far yielded no clues to the source of the infection, which has caused diarrhoea in the babies, many of them premature or suffering other complications. About twenty mothers and babies were left in the unit.

Gay film banned

A film intended to publicize a homosexual counselling service has been rejected by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The IBA said last night it did not think it proper to broadcast the message because public attitudes were deeply divided.

£10 bonus

The £10 Christmas bonus to pensioners will be paid again this year, Mr Norman Fowler, Social Services Secretary announced in a Commons written reply yesterday. About 10.5 million people will benefit.

Sale room

Identity revealed of £1.9m armour's buyer

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Milnes armour which spent £1,925,000 on the superb Milnes armour in last week's Hever Castle sale close to reveal his identity but only to The Times yesterday. He is Mr. B. H. Trupin, an American private investment banker, who did bidding over a transatlantic telephone line connected to Sotheby's London sale room. It is the highest price ever recorded at auction in fine, arts field.

Mr Trupin said that "when the opportunity arises I seek to acquire only the finest works of art. This suit of armour at Sotheby's is truly exceptional and a superb example of sixteenth-century craftsmanship."

Sotheby's said that Mr Trupin had been a client of theirs for years and had a diverse collection of works of art spanning many periods. In 1980 he spent \$390,000 (£245,000) on a grand piano designed by Alma-Tadema and incorporating a panel painting by Sir Edward Poynter. It remains the auction record price for any item of Victorian furniture, and for a piano.

A glass sculpture by A. M. Colnag was sold in Geneva on Sunday to Lewis M. Kaplan Associates, of London, not to an American dealer as stated on Tuesday.

IRA attack with pieces of cement

A Londonderry man who was attacked by eight masked men early yesterday morning, said in hospital that he had been told by the men that he would have to "leave the city by August 1 or suffer the consequences."

Mr Dennis Healy, aged 44, the father of 13, had his hands fractured by the men, who beat him with pieces of broken concrete.

Mr Healy said he had heard a noise at home and went downstairs to investigate. He was confronted by eight masked men who told him they were from the IRA.

"They pushed me into a room and ordered me to sit down. Then I asked them what they wanted they told me to shut up," Mr Healy said.

One of the men kept his wife and four of his children, aged between 11 and 18, upstairs in their home, in Coshhill Park.

"I was taken out to the back of the house. I was spread eagle on the ground and my hands were held while they were pounded with pieces of cement. I started to scream with pain," he said. "Suddenly it was all over. Mr Healy, who had been in hospital for two weeks, came to my aid, took me into the house and treated my wounds and sent for an ambulance."

Mr Healy, who said that about five years ago he had been shot in the leg by terrorists in the Bogside area, added: "I do not know why I was attacked. When I asked the men this morning, they told me to shut up."

The election

Labour naive, says Heseltine

By Philip Webster

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday denounced the Labour Party's defence policies in perhaps the strongest language yet used by the Government, describing them as naive, destabilizing and dangerous.

Devoting almost all his speech at the Scottish Conservative Party conference to the issue, Mr Heseltine said that Labour's one-sided policies would tip the balance of power towards the Soviet Union, encourage the Americans in the view that Europe would not defend itself and dangerously raise the risk that the Soviet Union might be tempted towards military adventurism in Europe. Labour, he said, proposed to abandon the consensus between the parties that had kept the peace and to "gamble with our freedoms".

Labour said that one-sided gestures by Britain would persuade others to follow, but there was not a shred of evidence to support such a naive claim.

The minister said that Labour had carried its proposition to the limits of absurdity by writing to the Kremlin to ask for a piece of paper in support of its policy and which Mr Foot could wave in the course of the campaign.

"It stretches my credulity to near breaking point to be asked to rely on Michael Foot for the defence of this nation. But to expect me to trust the conqueror of Afghanistan in a bid to secure the election of today's Labour Party is to insult the good sense of the British people. That is the ultimate revelation of the reckless gamble of Labour's defence policy."

Mr Heseltine's attack came as the Prime Minister confirmed that the British and American Governments had recently jointly reviewed the arrangements for the control of cruise missiles in the event of their deployment in the United Kingdom.

She said in a parliamentary reply that the arrangements would apply to American cruise missiles based in the United Kingdom on or off their bases.

"The effect of the understandings and the arrangements for implementing them is that nuclear weapons would be fired or launched from British territory without the agreement of the British Prime Minister."

In his Perth speech, Mr Heseltine said that kicking the Americans out of their bases in Britain, a vital and integral part of the American nuclear shield over Europe, would shake NATO to its foundations.

Labour's policies were in striking contrast to the moderate and sensible defence policies pursued by post-war Labour governments. "They propose to cast aside the political consensus on defence which has existed in this country for nearly forty years."

Alliance squabble over candidate

A dispute between the Social Democratic Party and the Liberals has left the Alliance without a candidate in one constituency.

Both parties are refusing to put forward a representative for Garston, in Liverpool. The Alliance allocated the seat to the Liberals but the local Liberal Party will not nominate a candidate.

It claims that the Alliance would stand a better chance of winning with an SDP candidate. But the SDP insists that Garston, which is held by the

Conservatives, should be fought by a Liberal.

Mr Glyn Parry, secretary of the SDP in Liverpool, said: "The seat was allocated to the Liberals and therefore they should put forward a candidate. It would be too late to put forward our own candidate."

Mr David Maudsley, chairman of the Liberal Party in Liverpool, said: "It is ridiculous. Relations between the two parties have been strained since the local elections. The seat is now held by a

Overseas selling prices
Australia £26.40 to £26.60; Belgium 26.40 to 26.60; Canada 26.40 to 26.60; Denmark 26.40 to 26.60; France 26.40 to 26.60; Germany 26.40 to 26.60; Greece 26.40 to 26.60; Hong Kong 26.40 to 26.60; India 26.40 to 26.60; Italy 26.40 to 26.60; Japan 26.40 to 26.60; Korea 26.40 to 26.60; Malaysia 26.40 to 26.60; Mexico 26.40 to 26.60; Netherlands 26.40 to 26.60; New Zealand 26.40 to 26.60; Norway 26.40 to 26.60; Portugal 26.40 to 26.60; Singapore 26.40 to 26.60; South Africa 26.40 to 26.60; Spain 26.40 to 26.60; Sweden 26.40 to 26.60; Switzerland 26.40 to 26.60; Taiwan 26.40 to 26.60; Thailand 26.40 to 26.60; United Kingdom 26.40 to 26.60; USA 26.40 to 26.60; Yugoslavia 26.40 to 26.60.

Ten women arrested at Greenham Common as the bailiffs move in

By Nicholas Timmins

Ten women were arrested yesterday at the Greenham Common peace camp in Berkshire, when Newbury District Council finally enforced the eviction order which it won in the High Court two months ago.

The arrests were made as police supporting bailiffs from the Berkshire sheriff's office dragged away women who were sitting on and in front of a number of vehicles which the bailiffs were towing away.

Thames Valley Police said that nine of the women were to appear in court accused of conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace and one had been charged with causing criminal damage. One woman was taken to hospital for a check-up after the flap in a cell door fell open and caught her a glancing blow on the head, the police said, she was later returned to custody.

Mr Michael Harris, legal officer to Newbury District Council, said that some of the

seized vehicles would be auctioned to raise about £2,000, made up of £1,000 in costs awarded by the High Court and the costs of yesterday's repossession, unless the women paid the money.

According to an article in *Peace News*, the first of the cruise missile convoys are expected to be delivered to Greenham Common from West Germany this month and the first of the United States crew members to man the missiles are due to arrive early next month.

Generals protest

The deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles will step up the arms race "beyond anything we know at present" and will damage the chances of comprehensive disarmament, according to a group of 13 former Nato generals, admirals and brigadiers.

The group, Generals for Peace and Disarmament, formed in 1981, argues that the alleged missile gap in Europe does not exist, that the search for a strict balance between East and West nuclear forces is a fallacy and that the existing United States Forces together with the French and British independent deterrents already provide a counter-balance to the Soviet Union's SS20s.

Brigadier Michael Harbottle, the British representative of the group, which includes officers from the United States, West Germany, France, Greece, The Netherlands and Portugal, said that the British and French forces could not be excluded from the Geneva talks.

A booklet published by the group, *Ten Questions*, argues that deployment of cruise, Pershing and Trident may well lead to moves by the Soviet Union to deploy missiles in Central America or at sea.



Peace camp skirmish: Officers from the Thames Valley Police removing women who were sitting on vehicles which bailiffs were trying to tow away from council land at Greenham Common yesterday.

Equality in marriage proposed for Scots

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Victorian laws in Scotland on husbands and wives which are discriminatory and out of step with modern notions of equality in marriage should be abolished, the Scottish Law Commission says in a report published yesterday.

Under Scottish law, for instance, actions can still be brought for breach of promise. They have been abolished in England and in other countries and the Scottish law "probably does not reflect modern attitudes", the commission says.

One criticism is that such actions may "potentially afford scope for blackmail, or 'gold digging' claims, or actions raised out of spite." That is the main reason for their abolition in England and some American states.

Another criticism is that any legal restrictions on the freedom of a person to withdraw from a proposed marriage is undesirable, the commission says.

Scottish law also gives a husband a stronger legal position in the choice of a matrimonial home. Provided his choice is genuine and reasonable, his wife will be in desertion if she refuses to live with him there.

The commission proposes the abolition of that rule and the placing of spouses on an equal footing.

Another anachronism is the presumption under Scottish law that the wife is the husband's domestic manager. In theory that can mean he is liable for certain bills incurred by her, the commission says. Although in practice the presumption probably has little effect, it is inconsistent with sexual equality and should be abolished, it says.

Mr Malik was killed when he went after Barnes and Rhoden and demanded the return of the chain. Barnes stabbed him through the heart.

BT to computerize inquiries

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is to computerize its telephone directory inquiry service. The corporation awarded Standard Telephone and Cables (STC) a £32m contract yesterday to supply 4,000 computer terminals for its inquiry operators.

Installation will start next year and should be finished by 1986.

British Telecom promises that its operators will be able to answer directory inquiries significantly faster by keying a name and address into an electronic terminal than they can with the present method which uses microfiches (microfilm).

Only three-quarters of the 10,000 directory inquiry operators employed today will be required to run the fully computerized system. BT expects to lose 2,500 jobs by

natural wastage and reallocating staff to other duties.

A spokesman said yesterday that compulsory redundancy could not be ruled out, but it would be "absolutely the last resort; at this stage we are not even considering it."

The Union of Communication Workers (UCW), which represents all telephone operators, has accepted computerization of directory inquiries as good in principle but it has not agreed that any jobs should be lost.

Miss Kim McKinley, the UCW officer responsible, said BT should take advantage of the reduced call handling time to cut the present delay in answering 192 calls, many of which are lost because people get tired of waiting and hang up.

However, BT is not promising to answer directory inquiry calls more promptly after the computer terminals are installed.

The new STC terminals will be connected directly to BT's existing computers, which already hold details of Britain's 22 million telephone subscribers.

If the inquiry is simple, as when the caller knows someone's name and address and just wants the number, the operator should be able to key in the details and give an answer within five seconds or so.

Since the database will be updated every day, there will be no need to resort to a special list of new numbers, which at present causes further delay.

Nilsen is charged with four more murders

Dennis Andrew Nilsen, a former probationary policeman, was charged with four more murders when he appeared on remand yesterday at Highgate Magistrates' Court, in north London.

Mr Nilsen, aged 37, of Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, north London, who had already been charged with the murder of Stephen Sinclair, aged 20, at Cranley Gardens on or about February 1, faced new charges during the one-minute hearing, his sixteenth remand appearance at the Highgate court.

The new charges are that at 195 Melrose Avenue, Cricklewood, London, he murdered: Kenneth James Ockenden between December 2 and 5, 1978; Maryn Brandon Duffley, between May 13 and 19,

1980; William David Sutherland, between July 1 and September 30, 1980; Malcolm Barlow, between September 16 and 19, 1981.

Mr Nilsen was also charged with attempting to murder Douglas Stewart at Melrose Avenue between November 9 and 12, 1980; and attempting to murder Paul Nobbs at 23 Cranley Gardens between November 22 and 25, 1981, contrary to section one of the Criminal Attempts Act, 1981.

He was remanded in custody for a further week.

The first of the four men whom Mr Nilsen was accused yesterday of murdering, Kenneth Ockenden, aged 26, was a Canadian on holiday at the time that he was vanished in London three years ago. He was last seen in December, 1979, two days before he was due to fly home.

Barrister's killer grins as he is jailed for life

An unemployed youth born in London of West Indian parents was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for murdering a barrister from Ghana.

David Barnes, aged 18, swaggled to the cells, grinning broadly, after being convicted of deliberately stabbing to death Mr Malik Owusu, aged 47, who had seven children. They both lived at Pym House, on the Angell town estate, Brixton, south London.

Barnes was cleared of taking part in the robbery which led to Mr Owusu's death on September 20 last. Afterwards it was revealed that Barnes was serving a borstal sentence for participation in a £6,000 robbery of a security guard. He had

other convictions, including one for carrying a knife.

His friend, Patrick Rhoden, aged 17, unemployed, of Lyndhurst Way, Peckham, also of West Indian descent, was put on probation for two years after he admitted snatching a gold chain worth £340 from the neck of a woman companion of Mr Owusu.

Mr James Miskin, QC, the Recorder of London, said he was taking the "unusual course" of freeing Rhoden because of his "very difficult" life and because he had been held in custody for several weeks.

Mr Malik was killed when he went after Barnes and Rhoden and demanded the return of the chain. Barnes stabbed him through the heart.



Bishop Sheppard being greeted by his wife at Manchester airport yesterday.

Two sides to Falklands case, bishop says

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend David Sheppard, arrived in Britain from Argentina yesterday and issued a warning that it would be foolish not to accept that both sides had a case over the Falklands.

He said his two-week tour had underlined the "serious difficulties" involved in reaching a peaceful settlement over the sovereignty of the islands. But the bishop said there was a "great sadness" in Argentina over the conflict with Britain and many Argentines were critical of their country's use of force in the islands last year.

The bishop said some people in Argentina had spoken of the British Government's long delays in offering a settlement. They felt that had provoked their government's action.

He told a press conference at Ringway airport, Manchester: "Whatever one's feelings with regard to the lawlessness of that action, I could not fail to realize the strength of feelings of people of British descent and others, both in Argentina and other parts of Latin America."

"They felt that Britain, as the more powerful nation, had reacted with unnecessary force," he said. His visit had made him feel the urgency of the two nations finding a peaceful settlement.

The bishop's visit was part of a South American tour to represent the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, at the amalgamation of the five South American dioceses of the Anglican Church into the new province of the southern zone.

Town's offer to Mencap

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The controversy over a holiday hotel for the mentally handicapped in the Devon seaside resort of Teignmouth may be resolved soon.

The town council, which at one stage told Mencap, Britain's leading organization for the mentally handicapped, to stay out of the dispute, has now offered office space to the holiday liaison officer Mencap is about to appoint.

mayor has invited Mr Paul Bourne, the owner of the Royal Hotel, which is the centre of the controversy, to meet him.

Mr Brian Rix, the secretary general of Mencap, was cautious yesterday when asked whether conciliatory moves meant that the controversy was at an end. He said, however, that the adverse publicity about the stand taken by Teignmouth council and local traders had led to a change of heart.

London trial for clamps on cars

By John Witherow

Wheel clamps will start being locked on to illegally parked cars in parts of central London from next Monday.

Motorists who find the fearsome device attached to their cars will have to go to the Hyde Park car pound and pay £19.50 in addition to a £10 parking fine. A notice on the windscreen will warn them not to attempt to drive off. It also provides a map and directions to the pound.

When the fine has been paid a mobile crew will be alerted by radio. They will remove the clamp from the car.

The Metropolitan Police experiment, which is backed by the Greater London Council and the London Boroughs Association, will take place in Westminster, south of the Marylebone Road and north of Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria Street, Whitehall, the Strand and central areas of Kensington and Chelsea between Kensington High Street and the King's Road.

School blast

Doctors at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, in Sheffield, saved the sight of Timothy Pass, aged 15, who was injured when a device exploded in the playground of Silverdale comprehensive school yesterday. Two youths were interviewed by police.

Jobs created

Microdata, the American-owned minicomputer manufacturer, is to invest £10m, mostly at its research and manufacturing centre in Hemel Hempstead, which yesterday changed its name from the Computer Machinery Company. About 300 jobs will be created.

Train derailed

A Manchester to Sheffield train was derailed in a two-mile tunnel near Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, on Wednesday night when the last carriage left the rails. No one was injured.

Sister pleads case of sick dissident

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government has been asked to intervene in the case of a Russian dissident accused of "hereditary schizophrenia" after following his father and grandfather into arrest and imprisonment.

Friends of Rostislav Evdomikov, aged 32, a poet and writer, who is weakened by a severe kidney disorder, fear for his life after he was sentenced to last month to five years' hard labour and three years' internal exile on agitation charges.

His grandfather died in a Stalinist labour camp in 1937 and his father died in 1979 after eight years in a psychiatric prison.

Fourteen MPs, led by Mr David Atkinson, the Conservative member for Bournemouth, East, have signed a Commons motion urging the Government to raise his case, and that of Mr Valery Senderov, another im-

prisoned dissident, at the European security conference at Madrid.

His sister, Miss Svetlana Evdomikov, also met Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, this week.

Miss Evdomikov, who was allowed to emigrate to the United States last year, is visiting Britain to campaign for her brother. Yesterday she described her feelings of deep bitterness and despair at seeing the third generation of her family facing death at the hands of the Soviet regime.

The charge of "hereditary schizophrenia" is thought to be unique in the campaign against dissidents. It was levelled against Mr Evdomikov, with membership of opposition organizations and the free trade union, SMOT, after his lengthy campaign for his father's release

and later accusations of "medical murder".

Mr Evdomikov was placed after his arrest last year in the Serbsky Psychiatric Institute, Moscow, where for a month he was not allowed to wash or exercise. Doctors there pronounced him sane before his trial.

Mr Evdomikov was also accused of contacts with foreigners, including a meeting in 1980 with Mr Atkinson, who was compiling a report on freedom of assembly for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. His supporters argue that the Russian charges are clear violations of the Helsinki agreement on human rights.

Miss Evdomikov has given evidence to a Congressional committee which has petitioned Mr Andropov, the Soviet leader, for her brother's release.



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ELECTION JUNE 83

Political reform

Three-pronged approach for jobs

Benefits overhaul

Alliance calls a halt to confrontation on politics in manifesto pledge

The general election will be seen as a watershed in British politics. It may be recalled as the fateful day when the Conservative Party, after years of near-total dominance, was forced to share power with the opposition.

Alternatively, it may be remembered as the day when the Conservative Party, after years of near-total dominance, was forced to share power with the opposition.

The Conservative and Labour parties between them have made an industrial wasteland out of a country which was once the workshop of the world. Manufacturing output from Britain is back to the level of nearly 20 years ago. Unemployment is still rising and there are now generations of school-leavers who no longer even hope for work.

The choice which Tories and socialists offer at this election is one between neglect and interference. Neither of them understands that it is only by working together in the companies and communities of Britain that we can overcome the economic problems which beset us.

Meanwhile, the very fabric of our common life together deteriorates. The record wave of violence and crime and increased personal stress are all signs of a society at war with itself. Run-down cities and declining rural services alike tell a story of a wasted waste of resources and of successive governments. Our social services have become bureaucratic and remote from the people they are supposed to serve.

Mrs Thatcher promised "to bring harmony where there is discord". Instead, her own example of confrontation has inflamed the bitterness so many people feel at what has happened to their own lives and local communities.

Our Alliance wants to call a halt to confrontation politics. We believe we have set an example by working together as two separate parties within an alliance of principle. Our whole approach is based on co-operation: not just between our parties but between management and workers, between people of different political views, and between government and people.

The programme has three points: 1. Fiscal and financial policies for growth; 2. Direct action to provide jobs; and 3. An incomes strategy that will stick.

1. Sustained policies for growth. These will be based on carefully selected increases in public spending.

2. We believe we have set an example by working together as two separate parties within an alliance of principle.

3. An incomes strategy that will stick.

4. We do not pretend that a lasting return to high levels of employment can be achieved painlessly, or without a re-emergence of the inflationary pressures which record unemployment has temporarily dampened down.

We are convinced there is no hope of a lasting return to full employment unless we can develop ways of keeping prices down which do not involve keeping unemployment up. And unlike either of the two old parties, we are prepared to face up to this by pursuing a fair and effective pay and prices policy that will stick.

It is Labour's refusal to face up to the need to restrain incomes, at the dictates of its union paymasters, which above all makes Labour's claim to pursue a solution to unemployment an utterly bogus, and it is Mrs Thatcher's refusal to contemplate anything other than unemployment as an incomes policy which condemns the country to permanently high unemployment if she wins another term.

In drawing up its counter-inflation programme, the Alliance has faced the question of pay and prices policy head-on. Unlike the other parties, the Alliance will seek a specific mandate from the electorate in support of an incomes policy. We shall campaign for a series of arrangements to keep price rises in check whilst unemployment comes down. Specifically we propose:

1. To establish a range for pay settlements. The Government will

keep our exports competitive, will be pursued so as to reduce unemployment by 400,000 over our first two years.

2. Direct action to provide jobs. The immediate action we propose is targeted on those among the unemployed who are most at risk - the long-term unemployed and the young. It does not throw money wildly about, but has been carefully drawn up to achieve the biggest gains in employment for the least cost. Our main proposals are:

1. To provide jobs for the long-term unemployed in a programme of housing and environmental improvement - house renovation, insulation, land improvement; these jobs are real jobs crying out to be done. There will also be a major effort to help the young to get on at school after 16 or go to college or take a training course. Our long-term aim is to see all 16-19-year-olds either as students with access to work experience, or as employed people with access to education and training. But the extension of training proposed here would also reduce youth unemployment by 100,000.

2. To extend the Youth Training Scheme so that it is available to all 16 and 17-year-olds and give real help to those who want to stay on at school after 16 or go to college or take a training course. Our long-term aim is to see all 16-19-year-olds either as students with access to work experience, or as employed people with access to education and training. But the extension of training proposed here would also reduce youth unemployment by 100,000.

3. To create more jobs in labour-intensive social services. There is a great need for extra support staff in the NHS and the personal social services. These services are highly labour-intensive and their greatest need for extra people is in regions of high unemployment. We propose the establishment of a special fund to create 100,000 jobs in the social services in order to create an additional 100,000 jobs of this kind over two years.

4. To give a financial incentive to private firms to take on the unemployed. We propose to pay a grant to companies for every extra job they provide and fill with an unemployed person for over six months. The scheme would be for employment pay, not unemployment pay. The Government loses about £100 a week (in unemployment benefit and lost tax revenues) for every person unemployed, so it is not extravagant to pay £80 a week for each additional job. According to the best estimates this incentive could increase employment by 175,000 within two years of its introduction.

In sum, our immediate programme of direct action would reduce unemployment by well over 600,000 in two years. What is more, it will do so in a highly cost-effective way by creating jobs which do not involve keeping unemployment up, and it therefore will not involve intolerable increases in public spending or borrowing.

Taken together, these proposals should reduce unemployment by one million by the end of our second year in government.

3. An incomes strategy that will stick. We do not pretend that a lasting return to high levels of employment can be achieved painlessly, or without a re-emergence of the inflationary pressures which record unemployment has temporarily dampened down.

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1. To establish a range for pay settlements. The Government will

discuss with representatives of commerce and industry, trade unions and consumers, the prospects for the economy as a whole, and will establish the desirable range within which pay settlements should be negotiated given the outlook for unemployment.

The Government will provide forecasts of the implications for unemployment, inflation and growth, of pay settlements at different levels, and the objective will be to arrive each year at an agreed norm or range for pay settlements. In the absence of agreement the Government will announce its own view and tailor its policies accordingly, but every effort will be made to minimize disagreement and establish a common view.

2. A fair deal for pay in the public services. The agreed norm or range will provide the background to a fair and systematic approach to pay in the public services. A single independent assessment board for public service pay will be set up to provide fair comparisons. Agreed arrangements for arbitration will be needed. As a result, public service pay will grow at broadly similar rates to that of comparable groups in the private sector.

3. New arrangements to discourage excessive pay settlements in the private sector. Pay settlements in the private sector will be negotiated with no direct interference in settlements made by small and medium sized businesses. We intend to set up a pay and price commission to monitor pay settlements in large companies, with powers to restrict price increases caused by pay settlements which exceed the agreed range.

At the same time, we shall legislate to introduce a counter-inflation tax, giving the Government the power to impose the tax if it becomes necessary. The tax will be levied by the Inland Revenue on companies paying above the pay range. It will be open to successful companies where productivity increases have been high to pay above the agreed range if they do so

through the distribution of shares which are not immediately marketable.

4. The nationalized industries will be subject to similar restraints on excessive wage settlements; and will not be permitted to evade the consequences of excess wage settlements and counter-inflation tax payments simply by raising prices.

We would, if we were convinced it was necessary in the prevailing circumstances, be prepared to introduce a fully automatic incomes policy to cover the interim period whilst these new arrangements are being introduced.

Previous incomes policies have been short-term reactions to crisis. They have been reversed or watered down. They have had no mandate from the electorate. The Alliance presents its policy now because it is both honest and necessary. To work a pay and price framework must be understood and supported.

The burden of the slump is being borne quite disproportionately by those now in long-term unemployment and by the poor, especially poor families with children. We propose to take the following measures straight away:

1. Help for families with children by increasing child benefit by £1.50 a week, increasing the Child Allowance in supplementary benefit by £1.50 a week; increasing the extra child allowance of one-parent families;

2. Help for pensioners. We will update the pension review a year because the present system gives rise to serious injustices. We will make sure pensioners can earn money without losing pension; we will increase the death grant to £250 for those of lesser means; standing charges for gas, electricity and basic telephone services will be abolished;

3. Help for the unemployed and sick by increasing unemployment benefit, sickness benefit and sick pay by 5 per cent; giving long-term supplementary benefit to the long-term unemployed; changing the rules so people do not need to spend their redundancy money before they can get supplementary benefit;

4. Help for the disabled by spending an extra £200m a year to



Mr Gavin Grant and Miss Fiona Mackintosh checking Liberal Party posters yesterday. (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

make a start on many reforms. These will include the extension of the invalid care allowance and full rights under the non-contributory invalidity pension to married women and the abolition of the age limit on the mobility allowance.

5. Finance. The total cost of these proposals is approximately £1,750m. This will be financed by raising the upper limit at which national insurance contributions are paid to £315 a week; reversing the recent increases in the high rate tax bands; and by the first stage of phasing out the married man's tax allowance. Therefore, this programme does not require an increase in public borrowing.

6. Attacking poverty. The Alliance proposes to carry through a major overhaul of the welfare system. The original grand design of the Liberal reformer, William Beveridge, has been mutilated over the years. Instead of a basic benefit, which was to secure for the old, the sick and the unemployed, a tolerable minimum standard of living as of right, we have a complex network of benefits dependent on 44 different means tests.

Mass unemployment has made the scale of our problems greater than at any time since the war. We believe that the only way to secure a basic benefit, which was to secure for the old, the sick and the unemployed, a tolerable minimum standard of living as of right, we have a complex network of benefits dependent on 44 different means tests.

In the long term, we plan a complete integration of the tax and benefit systems. We aim to see Parliament bring together all the major benefits - family income supplement, housing benefits, free school meals, supplementary benefits and to replace them with a simpler, single benefit, the size of which for each family will depend basically on the number of children and their housing costs.

The levels of benefit we propose mean that:

1. A working family with two children, now earning £100 a week, will be around £24 a week better off.

2. Single parents with two children, now helped by supplementary benefit, will be around £10 a week better off.

3. Single pensioners only getting the state pension will be £5.50 a week better off, and pensioner couples in the same position £10 a week better off.

4. Help will especially be concentrated on poor families with children, since these are the real centres of hardship.

The benefit will be used to supplement people's income - whether from a job, unemployment or sickness benefit or a pension - and the amount people actually get will depend on their income. The benefit will be gradually withdrawn as incomes rise - but in a steady way so that as people earn more they do not go better off despite the reduction of benefit.

The additional spending which the new welfare system will involve will be paid for from three sources: 1. by the continued phasing out of the married man's extra tax allowance (over at least three years). This is part of the removal of sex discrimination in taxation and will allow us to introduce the principle of separate taxation of earned income for all men and women, 2. by not fully indexing personal tax allowances; 3. by a relatively small increase in public borrowing, of

around £600 to £700m over the final programme.

Education and Training. We will develop a broader bridge between school and work, including more part-time schooling, and more work experience and better technical education for all pupils.

We will undertake a major reorganization of education and training for the 16 to 19, so that school leavers are not faced with the dilemma of either education or training or employment or a combination of the two. We propose:

1. A single ministry of education and training combining the youth training functions of the MSC and the responsibilities of the education of the education departments;

2. Full-time vocational courses offering sustained and properly planned periods of work experience, and the replacement of the time-served apprenticeship with training to set national standards;

3. Greater access to work experience for all 16 to 19-year-old students and a right to further education and training for those of this age group in work;

4. Expansion of the YTS to enable all 17-year-olds not covered by the above to participate in a government training scheme;

5. A new system of education maintenance allowance.

Housing. Alliance housing policy has three basic aims: to restore the housing stock where this is needed, to provide wider genuine choice for consumers and to allocate available funds with greater fairness. This will mean increased investment.

Our proposals include:

1. A steady expansion of local control and housing association building programmes, particularly for the single and the elderly, local council programmes to be in low density human scale developments.

2. Encouraging partnership schemes between local councils and private builders to provide houses to rent and low cost house ownership opportunities on the same estates.

3. Changing council allocation and transfer procedures to give tenants far more choice about where they live.

4. Encouraging shared purchase and other schemes which bring owner occupation within the reach of lower-income families.

5. Providing new sources of rented housing to compete with local councils.

The right to buy should be retained. After introduction of proportional representation, and hence greater accountability, councils could be given more discretion to decide their housing policy.

However, there should be a right of appeal in which councils would

justify to the local government ombudsman any proposed restriction on the individual's right to buy.

Housing subsidies must be distributed more according to need. Council tenants have been particularly hard hit by the government's policy of deliberately forcing up rents far faster than the rate of inflation.

Central government subsidies to local authority housing fell from £1,274m in 1980-81 to £370m in 1982-83, with the result that in most parts of the country, housing accounts are now moving into surplus. The Alliance says this process must stop. Council rents should be fixed so that housing accounts balance. Any surplus should be reinvested in improved management and maintenance, and not used to subsidize the general rates.

For owner-occupiers, the Alliance's long-term policy is to reform mortgage tax relief so that it relates to individual income rather than the size of the loan. In the meantime, tax relief will be limited to the standard rate of income tax.

The introduction of proportional representation is the keystone of our entire programme of radical reform. Alone of the political parties the Liberal Party and the SDP recognize that our economic crisis is rooted in our political system.

As class-based parties, Labour and Conservative represent and intensify our divisions. The "first-past-the-post" voting system ensures the under-representation of all those who reject class as the basis of politics. Electoral reform is thus a precondition of healing Britain's divisions and creating a sense of community. It is also a change we must make if we are, in the full sense of the word, to be a democracy.

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abolition of domestic rates and reducing local government's dependence on central grant, by introducing a local income tax.

We propose to reform the powers and composition of the House of Lords, which must include a significant elected element representative of the nations and regions of Britain.

Individual rights. A new Bill of Rights. It is amazing that our citizens have so frequently had to go to the European Court to have basic rights enforced. We shall incorporate the rights and freedoms of the European Convention on Human Rights into English, Scottish and Northern Ireland law by means of a new Bill of Rights Act which will be

paramount over all inconsistent statutes and common law.

1. We shall create a UK Commission of Human Rights.

2. The Alliance believes that sex and race equality are fundamental to our society. They will be promoted by positive action, for example, in relation to public employment policies which will be monitored in central and local government. Anti-discrimination legislation will be actively enforced.

3. Nationality and Immigration: we believe the British Nationality Act 1981 to be offensive and discriminatory. We will revert to the simple concept that all those born in Britain are entitled to British citizenship.

4. The Alliance is committed to two further constitutional reforms: decentralization to make government more accountable to the electorate, and basic legislation to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms. We propose:

Immediate action to set up a Scottish Parliament with a full range of devolved powers, including powers to assist economic development and powers to tax, but not to run a Budget deficit.

To enact Scottish devolution in an Act which would also provide the framework for decentralization to Scotland, Wales and the English regions as demand develops.

In the English regions to set up Economic development agencies with substantial powers. To make these development agencies and other nominated regional authorities which already exist, accountable in the first instance to regional committees of a reformed second chamber.

We support the present Northern Ireland Assembly and will work towards a return to devolved power in place of direct rule from Westminster. We favour the early establishment of an Anglo-Irish consultative body at parliamentary level.

We also propose to revitalize local government by abolishing one of the existing tiers. It would inevitably involve the eventual abolition of the metropolitan counties and the GLC (but not LSC), paving the way to the

abolition of domestic rates and reducing local government's dependence on central grant, by introducing a local income tax.

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● We shall legislate for public access to official information.

● We support state financing of political parties. Trade union members must have the right to "contract-in" on the political levy and to determine their union's party political affiliation by secret postal ballot. There should be equivalent action to regulate company donations to political parties.

The rule of law. The Alliance believes that it is vital to support and reinforce the police in their efforts to prevent and detect crime. But policing can only be effective if it is responsive to and carries the support and confidence of local communities. We therefore propose:

● To support community policing with local policemen on the beat and living locally.

● To enhance confidence in the police by introducing a conciliation service and an independent system for the investigation of serious complaints. We will establish a new police disciplinary offence of racially prejudiced behaviour and introduce lay visitors into police stations.

● To improve police accountability outside London by strengthening the community element on police authorities and encouraging community representation at the level of police divisions. For the Metropolitan Police, we shall as an interim measure establish a select committee drawn from London MPs.

Defence and disarmament. The Alliance believes Britain must be properly defended and our forces equipped for that task. Our defence policies reject both Labour's one-sided disarmament and the Conservative escalation of the nuclear arms race.

● We adhere firmly to the principles of collective security.

Participation in Nato must be the cornerstone of the country's defence policy.

● We accept the need for a nuclear component in the Nato deterrent whilst the USSR has nuclear weapons, but we support raising the nuclear threshold in Europe and moving towards a "no first use" policy, by strengthening Nato's conventional forces and establishing a 150 km battlefield nuclear weapons-free zone.

● We strongly back multilateral disarmament and arms control efforts. The START and INF talks should be merged or closely linked so that trade-offs can be made across weapons systems. Trident should be cancelled. Polaris should be included in merged START and INF talks as a further contribution to multilateral disarmament.

● If successful progress on nuclear weapons reductions has not been achieved in the negotiations at Geneva, an Alliance government will explore the opportunities for a verifiable mutual freeze on the production and deployment of all nuclear weapons.

Membership of the European Community. The Alliance is wholly committed to continuing UK membership of the European Community. The Alliance advocates further development of the Community and new common policies. At the same time, however, there is a great deal wrong with the structure of existing policies, and we must take the lead in putting things right.

To correct the imbalance in existing activities, an Alliance Government will press for expansion of Community activity on regional and social policies, industrial innovation, energy conservation and the development of renewable sources of energy. We accept the need for an increase in community funds to be made more diversified and fairer basis. We will work for some reduction in the agricultural budget.

Scottish devolution will provide a framework for decentralization to regions in England and Wales.

Animal welfare a key issue, survey shows

Election candidates got a warning yesterday that the animal welfare issue could have a significant effect on the vote.

A survey by National Opinion Polls (NOP) carried out for the General Election Coordinating Committee for Animal Protection, found that a 3.5 per cent swing by the electorate on animal rights issues could change the outcome of the election.

Five per cent of those polled said they would change the party they voted for if the candidate did not share their views on animal welfare and 15 per cent said they would consider switching their vote.

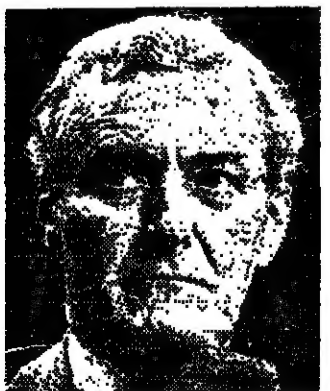
According to the poll, only 11 per cent of the population approved fox hunting, while 65 per cent disapproved, and 53 per cent of those wanted it banned; in rural areas 53 per cent of those asked disapproved of the blood sport.

The figures showed that 45 per cent of Conservative voters disapproved of fox hunting, 80 per cent of Labour supporters and 69 per cent of Liberal-Social Democratic Party voters. Four out of five people also disapproved of hare coursing.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby, chairman of the committee, which represents the main animal-welfare groups, said 42 per cent of country people wanted fox hunting banned by law.

A majority thought deer hunting, hare hunting and hare coursing should also be illegal. 62, 50 and 64 per cent respectively. More than 80 per cent of people wanted to see legislation to reduce animal experiments; 77 per cent disapproved of the use of live experiments to test tobacco and alcohol; and 75 per cent objected to the testing of cosmetics on animals.

When the candidates' fight for seats is a family affair



Mr Wedgwood Benn and Hilary: Fighting marginals.



Mr Winterton and Ann: Favourites to win.



Mrs Oppenheim and Philip: Contrasting prospects.

The general election is the biggest family affair for years, with husbands and wives, fathers and sons and related duos from all the main parties standing for Parliament (Richard Evans writes).

The Conservative Party is providing the largest number of related couples as candidates, so unwittingly backing up Mrs Thatcher's strong belief in "the family".

But the Labour Party is providing the best known

duo, with Mr Wedgwood Benn and his

PARLIAMENT May 12 1983

Farewell to the man who has become legend in his lifetime

THE SPEAKER

Amid all-party front and backbench tributes to his distinguished services, the House of Commons bade farewell to its Speaker since 1976, Mr George Thomas, a man who, according to the Prime Minister, had become a legend in his lifetime.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said that broadcasting of the proceedings of the House had meant that the bewitching and appealing lift of Tonypanady had been heard across the country and indeed across the world. He had filled the office with peculiar grace and charm.

Mr Thomas said he had always felt deep affection and respect for the traditions of the House. He declared: "Traditions which have survived the test of time should not lightly be discarded."

He was elected to the Commons for Cardiff Central in 1945 and since 1950 has represented Cardiff West. He was previously Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker. From 1968 to 1970 he was Secretary of State for Wales.

The following motion was unanimously carried: "That the thanks of this House be given to the Rt Honorable George Thomas for the great distinction with which he has upheld the traditions of the Speakership during the past seven years; that he be assured that his unfailing fairness, personal kindness and dedication to the House have earned him the respect and affection of all members of the House; and that all members unite in wishing him every happiness in his retirement."

The Speaker said: "I wish to make a personal statement of a valedictory nature. I wish to express my deep and sincere gratitude to all those who have served the House during my period as Speaker."

I am conscious that this House functions as well as it does only by reason of the dedicated service given by those who serve in the various departments of the House. To the Clerks of the House, the Sergeant at Arms and his staff, to the Library staff, to Hansard, to the Vote Office, the Refreshment Department, to the Fees Office, to the Establishment Office, to the police and custodians and to all who work on the maintenance and cleaning of the House, I express profound appreciation.

I am particularly in debt to all those who served as Deputy Speakers during my period of office. Each one is a personal friend and their loyalty and support has enriched my speakership.

I want to express my gratitude to those MPs who served on the Panel of Chairmen. For without their service our committee system could not survive.

I express gratitude to the Lobby and the Gallery for the way in which they honour our traditions and I believe that a free and responsible

press is as important as freedom of speech for members of this House. During my period of office there have been three different chaplains to the Speaker. Each has brought faithful dedication to the service of this House and I am grateful to them.

The House will understand that I want to pay special tribute to the personal staff in the Speaker's House, which I have been protected and cared for in a most wonderful way. Indeed, they have been my family. The devotion of the staff, my constituency secretary, and housekeeper make me a singularly fortunate man. My office has been presided over by two secretaries, and I shall always feel I am in their debt.

I am not alone in leaving this House after long service. There are many other MPs who will be bidding farewell to this House which they love and honour, and I know the House will wish them well. (Cheers.)

Should like to express the humble pride I shall always have in the knowledge that for seven years I have been trusted by the House with the high and honourable office of Speaker of this House of Commons in Westminster.

One of the great joys of my life has been to forge friendships in all parties in the House. My office has also led to friendship with Speakers throughout our Commonwealth, in Europe and in other parts of the world.

I am proud that this House is still held by other Parliamentarians in affectionate respect and referred to as the Mother of Parliaments.

Throughout my 38-year membership of this House, I have always felt deep affection and respect for its traditions, traditions which have survived the test of time should not lightly be discarded.

There is a meaning and a strength behind the traditions which we observe. It is a proud tradition that the House still guards them. I rejoice at the place this House has in our national life.

Despite all our human frailties, this House is still Britain's bastion of democracy. It is here in this Chamber and in the Parliament as a whole that the liberties of our people must be protected.

We are a great parliamentary democracy, and I trust that this House will ever protect the values which brought greatness to our history.

My heart will be with you all, and I shall never forget the steadfast support and friendship which I have received from both sides of the House and which is reflected in the early day motion on the Order Paper today, for which I express deep gratitude.

I will conclude by saying God bless you all and bless this House and our country, that we may always cherish the heritage of freedom handed to us by our fathers. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Speaker. (Loud cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher said Mr Thomas would be remembered for his unfailing fairness, personal kindness and dedication to the House. Every member would unite in wishing him every happiness in his retirement. It was difficult to find adequate words to follow his speech of farewell or to thank him for everything he had done while in the Speaker's chair.

His choice as 153rd Speaker had been unanimous and all had recognized, whether new members or long serving, his outstanding, nay unique, qualities.

Throughout the seven years that had passed since then, Mr Thomas had fulfilled his responsibilities in a way that had exceeded even the highest expectations.

When elected as Speaker he had served the House for 31 years and he had brought with him a wealth of experience as minister, a member of the Cabinet, a member of the Welsh Grand Committee and as a chairman of Ways and Means.

A great many have occupied your chair (she said) but it is a measure of your speakership that you have become a legend in your lifetime. Your voice, broadcast every day when the House has been sitting, has become familiar to millions all over the world as the Speaker of the Mother of Parliaments.

By word and example he had reminded everyone of his abiding affection for the House of Commons and his reverence for the institution of parliamentary democracy.

He had upheld the special compassion, impartiality and authority the office demanded which had made it a privilege to have served under his speakership.

Not only have you been our friend, even at moments of drama you have shown your characteristic Celtic sense of humour which has delighted us all.

It was a poignant joy to know that the House still guards them. I rejoice at the place this House has in our national life.

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been heard across the country and indeed across the world which had given a special colour to the affairs of the House.

To the office he had brought wit, humour, practical experience, a Welsh courtesy and a Welsh guile which were special qualities that all had appreciated.

He had filled the office with wit, humour, practical experience, a Welsh courtesy and a Welsh guile which were special qualities that all had appreciated.

There is a Methodist in your magnificent (he said to laughter). It would be very difficult for anyone to follow in his footsteps because of the straight and narrow path he had followed to a destination of universal acclaim that many members of the House must wish they could achieve.

You will carry away from this occasion (he said) the good wishes of all who wish to see you many times in the future. We will believe you have a great contribution to make to the political life of this country and no one could have given service to this House and this country with such generosity and more magnanimously.

Mr Roy Jenkins, Leader of the SDP (Glasgow, Hillhead), said he was in the Commons only for the first and last years of Mr Thomas's speakership, but that at least gave a certain perspective of his speakership. At the beginning Mr Thomas was already in gentle command; at the end he was supreme but still gentle.

When he came to the House Office at the end of 1965 you were Under-Secretary. A tradition had already developed under your predecessor that when the House was in session, the Speaker would be in the House.

Mr Thomas had been a model and guide for those who followed and his wise advice on many matters would be sought by his abundant friends.

Wherever we sit and wherever we work in this building (she said) we join in gratitude for your service to us and in good wishes for your retirement. We say farewell to one of our greatest Speakers.

Mr Foot added his thanks and gratitude to Mr Thomas for his service as Speaker. He said it gave the Opposition special pride to recall the way he had discharged his functions to the House and to the country.

You have brought (he said) nothing but honour and distinction on the high office to which you were elected and we are very grateful for that.

The introduction of broadcasting of the proceedings of the House had given a special favour to the way the business of the House had been conducted and the bewitching and appealing lift of Tonypanady had



Top: Mr John Parker, father of the House, and Sir Derek Walker-Smith, who are both to retire. Bottom: Mr Edward du Cann and Mr Jack Dorman, who both paid tributes from the back benches.

neighbours for 38 years and close personal friends for over 40 years.

As the Speaker's parliamentary neighbour he was perhaps in a unique position to speak of the deep respect and affection in which Mr Thomas was held in his constituency and throughout Cardiff by political supporters and opponents, members of all parties and of none.

Most of them were referred to as "Our George" was in itself sufficient testimony of the deep love people had for him. If friendship was one of the most rewarding gifts, the Speaker was the wealthiest man alive.

Those who had known Mr Thomas only as Speaker would not have seen what a passionate and successful fighter for the people of South Wales.

Most of them knew his infectious good humour. He seldom, if ever, used his famous wit at the expense of MPs. His eloquence was of the softest kind.

In transforming what had always been an important but relatively obscure office into one that was known and respected throughout the length and breadth of Britain he had elevated Parliament to the right focus and centre of the nation's attention. No one could have behind a more valuable testimony than that to the democratic tradition he held so dear.

Mr James Molyneux (South Antrim, OF UU) said the Speaker had earned the respect, admiration and affection of the House. He had shown sympathy and understanding for the people of Ulster and their representatives. He wished the Speaker well in the future.

Mr Edward du Cann (Taunton, C) said the back benches gave him the best thanks, for his incomparable service to them and Mr de



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Leaders clash for last time before dissolution

GENERAL ELECTION

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister and Mr Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, again clashed over their respective policies, promises and past performances during the last Prime Minister's question time before Parliament is dissolved.

Mr Foot suggested that by the end of the year unemployment and inflation would be up and the balance of payments situation would be serious.

Mrs Thatcher declined to make any forecasts, but said exporters had done a superb job in the past few years.

Replying to a Conservative questioner, she said they would have to work hard to win the forthcoming general election.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) opened the exchanges by asking the Prime Minister: Is she not extremely concerned that in addition to an extremely high unemployment rate, the Labour Party so far has adopted no less than four candidates of the Labour Party?

He said the Labour Party was in a unique position to speak of the deep respect and affection in which Mr Thomas was held in his constituency and throughout Cardiff by political supporters and opponents, members of all parties and of none.

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Mrs Thatcher. In about five years out of seven, inflation forecasts for November have been wrong. That is why we have changed the way we upgrade pensions from forecast to actual.

One of the first things we had to do was to give a greater pension because of the underforecast during Mr Foot's term of office.

Balance of payments figures are difficult to forecast. We have often found that performance, which has been superb in the past two years, exceeds forecasts - (interrupts) - absolutely superb and exporters are to be congratulated.

Mr William Elliott (Newcastle upon Tyne, North, C), who rose to cheer to mark his last question before retirement, said: Some good news is coming out of northern England. Northern Engineering Industries this week won a £70m contract for a power station in Singapore against the strongest world competition, including that from Japan, which has dominated that area for many years.

There has been enormous success with the new enterprise zones in Northern England.

Mrs Thatcher: I join Sir William in congratulating Northern Engineering in winning that order, one of the most important won in Singapore, which was won in partnership with the British firm of GEC.

Department which did everything to help. It was very good news.

Mr Frank Allam (Salford, East, Lab): Will Mr Thatcher today consider her professed support for multilateral disarmament? Who has rejected out of hand five such proposals made by Mr Andropov in the past four months?

She does not want any kind of arms reduction at all. It is verging on hypocrisy to pretend otherwise.

Mrs Thatcher: No, I repudiate what Mr Allam says. The only place to negotiate disarmament is in Geneva where it is properly taking place and reductions are not proposed across the table by the Soviet Union, but the American representative is under instructions from President Reagan to consider any reasonable proposition put.

I believe that Mr Andropov and the Soviet Union are being very very much indeed that they will be able to keep all their nuclear weapons and persuade the people of this country to disarm from them if a Labour Government gets into office.

We shall not get serious disarmament proposals until after the result of the election is known and it is a result that puts this party on this side of the House.

Mr Stanley Newman (Harlow, Lab): Does she regard the huge increase in unemployment, the very serious decline in manufacturing output, the large amount more that lower-paid people have had to pay in taxation, the huge numbers of company liquidations, and the severe cuts in social services and house building as compatible with the extravagant promises she made at the last election?

In those circumstances, how on earth can she expect people to believe her now in what she says? Is she not merely trying to put another supreme political confidence trick over on the British people?

Mrs Thatcher: You gain jobs by gaining customers. There is no other way. There have not been social service cuts and in the national health service, even after allowing for inflation, more is being spent. There are 6,000 more doctors and dentists. Pensions are better than ever.

A record amount has been spent per pupil in education.

Sir Albert Costa (Folkestone and Hythe, C), who also cheered on asking his last question, said that failure to deliver goods on time caused unemployment. Can she give any example? The Labour Party to learn to stop strikes, which stop things being delivered.

Mrs Thatcher: Failure to deliver on time loses a lot of orders and therefore jobs which we would otherwise get. It also gives British a bad reputation. We need greater industrial efficiency and goods delivered on time.

Mrs Thatcher: During Mr Foot's time in office, he did not give unemployment forecasts.

I believe that inflation forecasts are being made up and prices are not going up as rapidly as was thought when the Chancellor gave his Budget forecast, but if Mr Foot waits for a few months he will soon be able to win.

Mr Foot: The Prime Minister is sometimes a little reticent in making forecasts, but at election times she sometimes overcomes her inhibitions, so will she tell us the prospects for inflation, unemployment, and the balance of payments by the end of the year?

Inflation will be up, unemployment up and the balance of payments will be in a serious situation.

Mrs Thatcher: During Mr Foot's time in office, he did not give unemployment forecasts.

I believe that inflation forecasts are being made up and prices are not going up as rapidly as was thought when the Chancellor gave his Budget forecast, but if Mr Foot waits for a few months he will soon be able to win.

Mr Foot: She might have waited a few more months if she is so confident. (Laughter and cheers.)

Is she telling the country that the problem of unemployment is 6 per cent is not likely to be reached; that the £1,500m on the balance of payments deficit is not likely to be reached and that we are not going to see one and a quarter million more unemployed over and above the unemployment figures for which she is responsible?

Mr Dennis Cosmanton, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said he had been certain demonstrations taking place over the last month at which there was a certain amount of bomb throwing. I

often wonder what would happen if baton rounds were not there to be used. Was Mr Prior any idea how he would disperse bomb throwers?

Mr Prior: There has been some severe rioting in Londonderry chiefly by young hooligans, and 200 petrol bombs were thrown on one evening and a number of plastic baton rounds were used.

Despite the provocation, only 64 PBRs have been fired this year, which compares with 2,000 fired in the same time in 1981. There has been an enormous improvement there.

If we were not able to use plastic baton rounds to keep the rioters away from the security forces, the only alternative would be to use rounds in dire emergencies. The alternatives would be far worse.

I hope that an increasing number of people will come to learn of the can offer tourists. Last year 700,000 people came to Northern Ireland; I would like to see a million this year.

The Prime case

Women knew of spying

From Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Geoffrey Prime, who was sentenced last November to 35 years in prison for spying for the Russians, had told his first wife of his activities at Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham as early as 1973. Another woman who was involved in his activities nevertheless told security officials that same year that "she had no reason to think Prime should not be entrusted with secret government work".

Those are two of the most striking points to emerge from the report of the Security Commission into the Prime case.

His activities were finally revealed only when his second wife discovered them and reported him to the police.

Prime was subjected to positive vetting on four occasions, one of them being in 1973. The commission says that "in the course of investigations that have taken place since Prime's trial in 1973, it has been discovered that he had been a spy for the Russians. Miss Barsby admitted that Helena told her of this incident and that she was aware that Prime had admitted to spying before she agreed to act as a referee for the quinquennial positive vetting review."

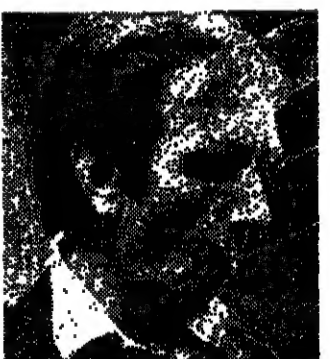
It is tragic that neither of these women had the courage to come forward and denounce Prime and so put a stop to his espionage in 1973. But the question to which we have had to give the closest attention is whether, when Miss Barsby was interviewed as a PV (positive vetting) referee, the PV investigating officer (PVIO) should, by more diligent questioning, have uncovered her knowledge of Prime's spying.

"In the course of her recent interview Miss Barsby had said that, when Helena told her of her discovery, she had threatened to tell the police, whereupon Helena said, in that case, she would completely deny the story. Miss Barsby said she was reluctant to stand as a referee and she had expected and indeed hoped that the PVIO would press her into disclosure."

"She says took a strong dislike to the PVIO who interviewed her because most of his questions were not her rather than about Prime. However, she admits that she told the PVIO that 'she has no reason to think Prime should not be entrusted with secret government work'."

The report continues: "We are extremely sceptical of the reasons now put forward by Miss Barsby for failing to tell the PVIO what she had been told about Prime's spying; they seem to us to be no more than a disingenuous attempt at self-justification for a disgraceful action."

Mr John Ellis, the deputy general secretary of the Civil Liberties Association, said that lie detectors were "alien to the British way



Geoffrey Prime. Money was found in his flat.

"We have not been able to interview the PVIO because he is dead. However, he seems from the records to have put all the questions to him to know him."

The commission records one other matter which it says, if it had emerged during the investigation of Prime's fitness for PV clearance, that was the fact that he had consulted a psychiatrist in November, 1972. "He should have reported to us of visit under staff regulations but he did not do so."

"The psychiatrist for his part would clearly have regarded it as a breach of his duty to have volunteered his report to the authorities, as would the general practitioner who referred the case. We cannot see that anyone is to be criticised here."

Of subsequent reviews of Prime's PV clearance in November, 1974, and again in February, 1976, the report says: "The reviews were carried out thoroughly and conscientiously; the latter revealed an improvement in Prime's work performance and general attitude to his colleagues now that he had accepted the breakdown in his first marriage and there had been a

divorce. Nothing appeared to raise any doubt as to his suitability for continued PV clearance."

"Our conclusion is that there is no ground for supposing that anyone failed to discharge his duties under the PV procedures other than in a conscientious and efficient manner."

"The PV procedures were, in fact, applied in many respects more rigorously than required by the minimum standards set out in the PV system did not protect us from Prime, but the explanation for this lies in the limitations of the system itself and not in any fault on the part of those who operated it."

The report notes that Prime was a "loner" and felt inadequate, academically and socially and in terms of his sexuality. He rejected any personal responsibility for his failures and built up feelings of bitterness and resentment against Western capitalist society.

At the same time he was not the professional spy of fiction; he did not make any extraordinary effort to obtain information.

"Prime was regularly taking the most highly secret documents home in his briefcase in the evening, photographing or copying them at home, and then returning them in his briefcase next morning."

"The report provided Prime could put the documents into his briefcase unobserved and replace them the following morning, there was, in the absence of any search of his briefcase, no way of detecting him."

"A regular check of the counter on the photocopying machine which Prime used illicitly while at GCHQ, Cheltenham, should have revealed that someone was using the machine and not entering up the register. If this had been done it is possible that Prime's use of the machine might have been detected."

"This is the only area that we have been able to identify in which a failure to take an obvious pre-

caution facilitated Prime's espionage. Although this lapse was regrettable, its contribution to the overall damage done by Prime was small."

"The lesson to be learned... is that we cannot lay the blame for Prime's espionage in upon the shoulders of those responsible for carrying out our present security procedures. It is the procedures themselves that must be re-examined."

The report notes that a number of improvements in security arrangements are being implemented, or in some cases tested.

The report recommends a number of further measures to improve the security system. They include the introduction of a system of random searches of individuals as they pass through the gates.

They say they have in mind not full body searches, but "no more than a search of briefcases, handbags, ransack pockets, unbelts and so forth."

Such procedures would be unlikely to frustrate the trained and determined spy who would have been provided with special equipment. But it would be likely to deter the opportunist.

"Prime himself has said that he was often apprehensive, when taking documents home. The commission also suggests that the possibility of extending a system of random searches to other government establishments where staff handle highly classified material should also be considered."

Throughout the service those involved in initial PV or PV reviews should be required to complete a health declaration which would include the subject's written authority for access to all his medical records.

In recommending the establishment of a pilot scheme using the polygraph, or lie detector (the commission expresses disapproval of this term), it says that this is the only measure of which one can say with any confidence that it would have protected GCHQ from Prime's treachery, because it would either have detected him from applying to join or have exposed him in the course of examination.

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Peace activists get together at East Berlin secret meeting

From Michael Binyon, Berlin

At a secret rendezvous in East Berlin, a dozen Western delegates to an international peace conference in West Berlin have held a meeting with 35 unofficial East German peace campaigners who had been denied exit visas to attend.

The delegates, from America, Western Europe and Japan, trickled across Checkpoint Charlie one by one on tourist visas and brought back a message from their East German colleagues, after the meeting on Wednesday evening, which said that peace in Europe was indivisible from human rights, freedom and self-determination.

The East Germans called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from all foreign countries, the establishment of nuclear-free zones in East and West, the creation of democratic social structures throughout Europe, and freedom of religion and assembly.

They also demanded an end to injustices inside each country and all suppression of peoples by their governments.

The group concluded: "We greatly regret that the credibility of peace proposals of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic is undermined by their refusal to allow us to take part in the open dialogue of your conference."

The organizers of the second European Nuclear Disarmament Convention, which began plenary sessions yesterday and goes on until Saturday, also received messages of support from an unofficial peace group in Moscow and from the Charter 77 human rights group in Czechoslovakia.

Altogether 3,000 people representing 400 groups have arrived here to plan and organize non-violent ways of preventing the deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe, as well as discussing the economic costs of the arms race, ways of breaking East-West confrontation, the maintenance of detente and general disarmament.

Representatives of the Greenham Common women attracted considerable attention. Calling for support from all European peace movements, they announced they will fight the

British general election, putting up candidates against Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, Mr Denis Healey, the Labour Party's deputy leader, and other Labour politicians, they said did not hold to the party's disarmament policies.

They also announced a peace march from Scotland to Greenham Common starting on May 19 and a women's strike on May 24, when all women working in firms involved in the preparation of sites and cruise missile sites would stop work.

Women from Cosimo, in Sicily, spoke of the close links they have forged with the Greenham Common women.

The women insisted they would never resort to violent opposition, although they said police has become increasingly aggressive and disruptive. But we are still there. Please visit us. We may be evicted any day.

Non-violence, one woman told a press conference, was more than just blocking bases, it was a slow process of unlearning habits learnt from society, and has wide political and social implications for the women's movement.

A main theme that ran through the first three days of expert hearings was whether the peace campaigners should couple human rights with the peace issue, or whether the peace movements should concentrate on what they saw as the immediate threat - the new Nato missiles.

Several prominent campaigners and politicians have taken part in the conference. Mr Michael Foot, the Labour party leader sent a message of support. Mr Bruce Kent, the chairman of CND, arrived on Wednesday afternoon, and Herr Egon Bahr, the West German Social Democratic Party defence expert, took part in some of the hearings.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the mayor of Saarbrücken and a leading left-wing Social Democratic critic of the Nato decision, said his party should propose a nuclear freeze as soon as possible and not wait for the American Congress to act.

Kenya fury against a 'traitor'

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Kenya has been treated to a flood of emotional statements condemning an unnamed "traitor" and any country supporting him. The campaign began after President Daniel Moi's claims last weekend that some foreign countries were grooming another Kenyan to take over the presidency.

The issue has dominated the front pages of the newspapers here throughout the week, and the term "traitor" is being applied to the unidentified subject of President Moi's anger.

Mr Francis Mutwol, parliamentary secretary of the ruling Kenya African National Union (Kanu) party, says the "traitor" is a minister who has made many trips abroad and has property and money outside Kenya.

Other statements have demanded that Kenya close the mission of the unnamed country said to be supporting a change of president.

President Moi has called for support for his Vice-President, Mr Mwai Kibaki, who has issued a strongly-worded declaration of loyalty. Mr Kibaki added: "We challenge the foreign powers and their Kenyan traitors to fight it out openly."

But despite many calls for the "traitor" to be identified, nobody has named a name, or identified the foreign power which is alleged to have decided to groom him for the presidency.

Judge told to release De Lorean evidence

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A federal appeals court in Los Angeles has ordered the release of court documents relating to the forthcoming trial of Mr John De Lorean on cocaine charges, a move that was hailed by newspapers as significant step for press freedom.

It is rare for American judges in criminal cases to prevent journalists seeing court documents, even if they are not presented or read out in open court. But in the De Lorean case District Judge Robert Takasugi sealed an extensive number of documents on the grounds that their release might prejudice the chances of a fair trial.

The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and the Associated Press filed an emergency petition against the judge's ruling. Lawyers on both sides have been given until today by the

TV ban on Greek opposition

From Mario Modiano Athens

The Greek Government rejected an opposition request for television time on the ground that its opponents were abusing the facility so as to put across a scare campaign that divided the nation.

Greek radio and television are controlled by the Government, but when the Socialists came to power 19 months ago, they declared that, unlike their Conservative predecessors, they would give the opposition a chance to air its views whenever it wished.

Mr Evangelos Averoff, the leader of the conservative New Democracy, the main opposition party, denounced the Government on Wednesday night for turning down his request for a 15-minute talk on television, without the courtesy of an explanation. He said this showed how scared the Government was of criticism that it was muzzling the opposition, and causing democracy grave harm.

A Government spokesman said Mr Averoff's words were in fact an indictment of his own party which had imposed a virtual monopoly on state media between 1974 and 1981. Mr Averoff had in office, the last one eight weeks ago.

Mr Averoff's address was published in the Greek newspapers instead. In it he accused the Government of mismanaging the economy, ruining business confidence, causing widespread unemployment and forcing the reluctant country gradually towards a "collectivist economy".

Echoes of Chicago in Philadelphia contest

The Rizzo razzmatazz makes Goode look even better

From Nicholas Ashford Philadelphia

"Ladies and gentlemen, let's give a big hand to Philadelphia's favourite son, Frank Rizzo", the compere barked into a microphone. His voice was almost drowned by the cheers of the Rizzo supporters as their hero arrived in a blaze of television lights.

It was like a scene from *The Godfather*. Seven hundred and fifty people had packed into Palumbo's restaurant and nightclub in the heart of Philadelphia's Italian quarter, where they were paying \$100 (£63) a plate to support their candidate's campaign for Tuesday's Democratic mayoral primary.

Large men in shiny suits and even shinier shoes sweated under the arc lamps as Mr Rizzo, a former police commissioner and twice mayor of America's fourth-largest city, vowed to restore strong leadership to Philadelphia. "Rizzo makes me proud of my heritage", said a man who gave his name as Champagne Charlie. "He has a heart as big as his body."

A couple of miles away Mr Rizzo's main opponent, Mr Wilson Goode, the city's black former senior manager, had just attended a less rumbustious meeting at the Academy of Music, where a group of "Bankers for Goode" had gathered to hear him explain how he intended to run the city "like a \$1.4 billion corporation with 1.6 million stockholders."

There were no television lights, only a handful of reporters, and the applause was politely restrained. Mr Goode spoke earnestly about the need to expand Philadelphia's tax base and to stem the flow of money and people from the city.

Mr Rizzo and Mr Goode are the two leading candidates in a six-way race for the Democratic nomination. The four others, who include a pretzel maker and a right-wing extremist, are expected to pick up only a handful of votes.



Campaign flavour: Mr Wilson Goode taking a bite out of a pretzel while canvassing for support in a business area.

The racial character of this contest has led to comparisons with Chicago, where Mr Harold Washington was elected recently as its first black mayor. If Mr Goode wins next Tuesday - and opinion polls suggest that he should do so easily - he will stand a strong chance of becoming Philadelphia's first black chief executive when the mayoral election takes place in the autumn.

There clearly are some similarities between the two contests. For instance, blacks in Philadelphia make up about 40 per cent of registered Democratic voters, the same proportion as in Chicago. In both cities there has recently been a huge increase in registration of blacks: almost 100,000 in the case of Philadelphia. Mr Goode knows that, like Mr Washington, he needs a massive black turnout if he is to win.

But at this point the similarities end, and officials for both candidates have grown tired of repeating that Philadelphia is not Chicago. For a start there has been none of the overt race-baiting during the campaign that there was in Chicago.

During this campaign Mr Rizzo, who was renowned for his combative style and big mouth, has been deliberately restrained. One of his few controversial remarks was to describe Mr Washington as Al Capone, a reference to the Chicago mayor's term in prison for tax evasion.

Mr Goode has also been careful to avoid making race an issue. Whereas Mr Washington campaigned on the theme "now it's our turn", Mr Goode has been busily building up support among liberal middle-class whites.

Unlike Chicago, where neither Mr Washington nor his Republican opponent had much experience in city government, both Mr Rizzo and Mr Goode have solid records on which they can be judged.

Mr Rizzo, aged 62, a self-made man and an old-style city boss, has tried to convey the impression that Philadelphia was in better fiscal and social condition when he was in charge. He has blamed Mr Goode, as the city's top appointed official for the past three years, for the deficit of more than \$100m.

However, many Philadelphians have less happy memories of Mr Rizzo's years in office. "There was a lot of tension in the city then, a sense of chaos," according to

Mr Larry Kichel, the political correspondent of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Mr Rizzo, aged 62, became known for his outrageous remarks. For example he pledged to run a law-and-order administration that would make "Attila the Hun look like a faggot". Many also recall - aided by Mr Goode's television commercial - that he failed a lie detector test and that he called for 15,000 federal troops to guard the city's streets during the 1976 bicentennial celebrations.

Mr Rizzo has been trying a new image, tending down his rhetoric, courting black voters and even granting an interview to a gay newspaper.

His opponents, however, do not seem convinced that he has really changed, while his supporters seem disappointed that some of the fire has gone out of his belly.

Mr Goode, aged 44, is the complete antithesis of Mr Rizzo. The son of a sharecropper, he is a college graduate and an experienced city manager. He wears three-piece suits and a dour expression and speaks in a bland, unexpressive way.

He has a reputation for hard work and never being late for a meeting. He appears almost boring, which is perhaps one of his strongest assets, as this makes him non-threatening to whites. Unlike Mr Washington, Mr Goode has no skeletons hiding in any of his cupboards.

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The Middle East balance of power

Syria installs 230-mile air defence system with Russian missiles

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Soviet military advisers and Syrian Air Force personnel have completed a sophisticated anti-aircraft missile defence system — a 230-mile long missile "trap" — to destroy any surprise Israeli attack on Syria.

The chain of Soviet-manufactured rocket batteries stretches from Latakia, the northern Syrian port into which Russia ferries most of Syria's arms supplies, through Damascus right down to the Jordanian border at Deraa.

Based around the new Sam 5 missiles brought into Syria last January, the network is by far the most complex and modern air defence system brought into the Middle East by the Soviet Union.

All the evidence suggests that the missile chain, which comprises well over 100 sites with several batteries each, is purely defensive; but it has given President Assad of Syria enough confidence to state publicly that he is ready for war if Israel attacks.

The batteries of Sam 2, Sam 3, Sam 5 and Sam 6 missiles are clustered south of Damascus on a line running parallel to the

Israeli frontier and then up the Syrian coast from the northern Lebanese border to some 10 miles north of Latakia.

All the sites are locked into a system of 30 early warning stations that spread more than half way across Syria towards Iraq.

Most of the missile batteries can be identified on American satellite photographs available to the Israelis. The Israelis themselves — with the high-technology American weapons systems at their disposal — will already have studied possible electronic counter-measures.

Nevertheless, the Syrian air defence system presents a formidable obstacle to any surprise Israeli attack on the long-range Sam 5 missiles that were positioned outside Damascus and Homs earlier this year.

The Sam 5, capable of a range of well over 160 miles, are principally intended to threaten high-altitude Israeli reconnaissance flights which might be used to jam the computer instructions to the lower-range anti-aircraft missiles around Syria's main cities.

The two Sam 5 sites are

themselves protected by nine sites of Sam 6 missiles with a range of 37 miles and five Sam 3 sites.

The Sam 3 — code named "Golf" by Nato armies and intended to hit low-flying jets at a maximum range of only 18 miles — is itself supplemented on the northern Syrian coastline by belts of Sam 2 rockets which carry the Soviet designation code V75SM. They can clearly be seen from the main road running between Tartous and Baniyas.

The missile system extends to the border with Lebanon, where rockets are positioned on the anti-Lebanon mountain range high above the Bekaa Valley. The Syrians have not replaced the Sam 6s destroyed on the floor of the valley last summer, but can send new short-range missiles into Lebanon — at 24 hours notice and hook them into the overall Syrian air defence system, using the Sam 5s inside Syria to shoot at Israeli reconnaissance aircraft over the Bekaa.

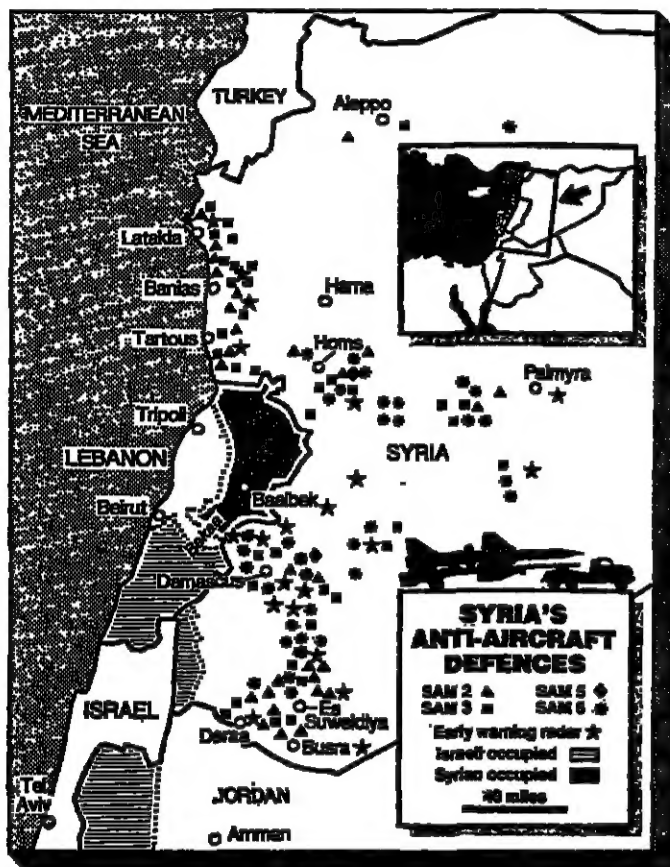
The network of missile sites across Syria shows that the authorities in Damascus also regard the central city of Homs as a possible target — as the suburbs contain a large oil refinery and 12 separate rocket sites can be found around the city — and military installations clearly exist near the Damascus-Palmyra road where another eight sites have been constructed.

Despite his semi-hostility towards the regime in Baghdad, however, President Assad is evidently untroubled by any fears of an Iraqi attack. The nearest missiles — a Sam 3 and two Sam 6 sites — are positioned more than 70 miles from the Iraqi frontier.

Israel relied last year on its own fighters for air cover shooting down more than 70 Syrian jets in one day over the Bekaa. It is for this reason that the Syrians have now invested in so large a network of ground-to-air missile defences.

Israel's mobile "Hawk" anti-aircraft missiles are deployed in northern Galilee, although on one occasion last summer — against the guidelines agreed with the United States — Israel is believed to have set up a "Hawk" battery near the Lebanese town of Beit Meri and used it to shoot down a Syrian Mig 23 reconnaissance aircraft over the Beirut suburb of Antelias.

War Clouds, page 14



Spain gives support to Palestinians

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

King Juan Carlos has expressed Spain's firm support for the Palestinian people's right to an "internationally recognized existence" and for new regional collaboration efforts by Algeria and Morocco.

He conveyed these pro-Arab aspects of the Socialist Government's foreign policy during a three-day state visit to Algeria before returning to Madrid with Queen Sofia and Señor Fernando Morán, the Foreign Minister, on Wednesday night.

The Spaniards now hope the good climate created by the visit will help resolve the one serious economic problem with Algeria — over natural gas supplies — and lay the basis for wider economic cooperation with Algeria and the Magreb.

The King's views on Palestine, expressed in his address to the Algerian Parliament, underlined the Socialist Government's wish that diplomatic recognition, much pressed by the Israelis, should come as part of a package solving the whole Palestinian problem, to which Israel itself must make a contribution.

The Israeli Socialist Party had been pressing the Madrid Government since it came to office for quick recognition. At the same time, Señor Morán, in talks with his Algerian counterpart, was able to prepare the ground among the Arab countries for such recognition if there is a Palestinian settlement.

The King's visit to Algeria, which will probably be followed by one to Madrid by King Hassan of Morocco later this year, has signalled Spain's desire to contribute to a stabler "greater Maghreb" after the reconciliation meeting last February between King Hassan and President Dendjedj Chadi of Algeria.

Last obstacle to pact on Lebanon removed

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The final hurdle preventing the signing of the American-negotiated troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon was overcome yesterday when the Israeli Government declared itself satisfied with last-minute clarifications it had sought in the text from the Lebanese.

As a result, the thirty-fourth and penultimate meeting of the Israeli Lebanese and American negotiators will take place in the resort town of Netanya this morning to finalize the wording of the agreement — which depends on so far unobtainable Syrian acquiescence before any of its provisions will go into effect.

According to official Israeli sources the diplomatic teams will exchange final texts and the side letters, adding up to more than 30 pages in all. A final decision will be taken about the signing, which is expected to take place at twin ceremonies in Israel and Lebanon early next week.

The lifting of the outstanding Israeli reservations about the lengthy draft agreement negotiated by Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, took place here yesterday after Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy, returned from Beirut with the required minor changes.

● BEIRUT: The Lebanese government was last night trying to persuade the Syrians to withdraw their army from Lebanon by approving the draft agreement and by sending Mr Elie Salem, the Foreign Minister, to Damascus for personal talks with President Assad.

The Lebanese are hoping that the draft agreement might be initiated today in Netanya, although the full agreement is unlikely to be signed until Monday.

Mr Salem will be flying to the Syrian capital with President Amin Gemayel's personal re-

quest for a Syrian withdrawal simultaneously with the Israelis, although there is still no sign from Damascus that President Assad will accept the principles of the agreement worked out last week. Saudi Arabia has already urged the Syrians to comply with the withdrawal plan.

President Assad and President Gemayel spoke on the telephone for 45 minutes on Wednesday night — in itself something of an achievement since telephone lines between Beirut and Damascus have been cut since last June — although the Lebanese Government preferred not to disclose what the two had to say.

The Americans, who believed that the Lebanese should themselves demand Syria's withdrawal, have agreed that Israel has no obligation to move its troops out of Lebanon if Syria does not pull out too.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Shultz has reported to President Reagan his confidence that despite its strong condemnation of the agreement Syria would eventually withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Mr Shultz believes that there clearly is a weight of opinion building up among moderate Arab states that this was the opportunity to secure the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from the Lebanon — Israeli, Syrian and PLO.

Although during his recent Damascus talks the Syrians were certainly not encouraging about the agreement, they did not actually refuse to withdraw their forces.

● PARIS: Syrian forces went into Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese Government, and their withdrawal would therefore depend on the wishes of the Lebanese people. Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz, the Saudi Arabian Defence Minister, said after talks in Paris yesterday with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary,

disciplinary arrests of retired military officers, this development has further complicated the workings of the military legal system.

General Galtieri was arrested on April 12, after giving an interview in which he criticized senior military officers for leading the coup against him in June last year, and attacked the performance of General



Flames of dissent: Helmeted rioters setting fire to a barricade in the Latin Quarter of Paris.

Mauroy warns students after fresh riots

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After a week of violent clashes between students and police throughout France, M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, warned students yesterday against allowing their demands to be exploited by extreme right-wing groups seeking to bring chaos to the Universities and violence to the streets.

Speaking to the national congress of the French teachers' union at Marly-le-Roy, on the outskirts of Paris, on the eve of the fifteenth anniversary of the general strike by students and unions in May, 1968, M Mauroy said that the Government understood the students' anxieties, and was trying to meet some of their demands by introducing the very reforms which were now under attack by a minority of students.

The Government intended to press ahead with the first reading on May 24 of the Bill to reform higher education despite the strikes and demonstrations, he insisted. Students and professors throughout France have called for mass joint demonstrations on that day.

There is, however, a chance that the three-month strike by medical students

may be over by then. Mediators appointed by the Government have, with ministerial approval, conceded a number of the students' demands. They have agreed in particular that there should be no final examination at the end of the sixth year of medical studies.

Medical students were involved in an ugly clash with police on Wednesday night at the Cannes Film Festival, just before the gala showing of Nagisa Oshima's film, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, starring David Bowie.

As guests started to arrive at the Palais des Festivals in dinner jackets and long dresses, several hundred medical students, dressed in white surgical coats, tried to force their way through a police barrier. According to some observers, grenades and petrol bombs were thrown at the police, who responded with more tear gas and a baton charge.

Several people were injured, including a child who was hit by a tear gas grenade. A security guard was thrown through a glass door and a journalist and a policeman were

hit in the face by acid thrown by demonstrators, some of whom were hooded and, according to the police, seemed to have little to do with the medical students.

Other violent incidents broke out in Paris later in the evening, as about 600 mainly law students staged an unexpected demonstration in the Latin Quarter, erecting barricades of burning tyres, boxes, planks and metal barriers, and hurling stones at police.

Meanwhile, demonstrations by farmers, opposed to the EEC system of monetary compensation for agricultural products, have also been continuing throughout the country, with Brittany, the north and north-east being the worst affected. Teargas and batons have often been used.

A particularly violent incident occurred on Wednesday in Pontlevy, on the outskirts of Paris, as about 30 farmers started violently attacking five imported pigs with knives, leaving several half alive and screaming with pain. The director of the Pontlevy abattoir said the incident was "shameful and totally unacceptable".

Salvadorean killers issue threat

San Salvador (NYT) — In El Salvador death threats often come by telephone. One night last week the message was more direct. The body of a young man had apparently been strangled and then shot in the head was found in a hotel car park, with a warning for a salvadorean politician.

In his pocket and strewn around his body were copies of a communist manifesto in which the Secret Anti-Communist Army (ESA) claimed responsibility. It warned Señor Mauricio Armando Mazier adino, a Christian Democratic deputy, that the same thing would happen to those individuals whether civilian or military, who collaborated directly or indirectly with the communist guerrillas.

Señor Mazier gave an impassioned speech recently, when the Constituent Assembly unanimously approved a law offering an amnesty to political prisoners.

"We know that the armed insurgents of the extreme left are in the mountains, but as for the death squads we don't know who they are or where they are," Mr Mazier said.

The young man's body was found in the car park to the Camino Real, where most foreign journalists stay. The communist said he was responsible for burning down a filling station in Apopa, seven miles north of the capital.

He was dressed in Khaki, with a patch on his shirt pocket bearing the insignia of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front, the guerrillas' umbrella group. According to reporters who saw the body, the clothes were clean and pressed and looked as if the man could have been dressed in them after being shot.

The body was the first to appear in the hotel car park for more than a year.

● PANAMA CITY: Four Latin American foreign ministers have decided to extend talks on Central American peace moves, amid mounting tension between Honduras and Nicaragua and reports of heavy casualties in El Salvador, Reuters reports.

Panama's Foreign Ministry said that the ministers from Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, known as the Contadora Group, were staying on for an extra day of talks yesterday.

A ministry spokesman said that a key issue was a Costa Rican proposal for the four countries to organize a regional peace-keeping force to patrol its border with Nicaragua.

Botha presses on regardless

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, promised yesterday that his Government would press ahead with its controversial constitutional reforms despite the by-election results, which suggest that he may no longer have the support of a majority of the all white electorate.

In an interview with pro-Government Afrikaans newspaper *Beeld*, the Prime Minister said: "The Government will continue to carry out the mandate (for reform) it was given at the general election (in April, 1981), and there is no question of putting on the brakes".

Early on Wednesday, when the votes were still being counted in the Soutpansberg constituency in the far north of Transvaal, where Mr Fanie Botha (no relation), the Minister of Manpower, eventually scraped home by 621 votes, Mr Botha had struck a more sombre note. He acknowledged that the electorate was "deeply divided".

That earlier verdict has been endorsed by most political analysts here as they pore over the arithmetic of the by-election results.

In general, they agree that Mr Botha can no longer count on the support of a majority of whites in the referendum which he has promised to hold before the constitutional reforms are put into effect.

They note, in particular, that of the 49,343 votes cast in the four Transvaal by-elections (three for parliamentary seats

and one for a provincial council seat) only 21,578 or 43.7 per cent went for the ruling National Party (NP). Its share of the poll in these constituencies in 1981 was 56 per cent.

The extreme right-wing Conservative Party (CP) of Dr Andries Treurnicht, and the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) of Mr Jaap Marais, an

cent cast for the liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which castigated the proposed reforms as cosmetic and fraudulent, are also thrown into the balance, then it can be argued that 26,730 voters, or 54.2 per cent of the total, voted against the reforms for one reason or another.

This reasoning, of course, makes some large assumptions. The main one is that all PFP voters would vote "no" in a referendum on the reforms. In fact, quite a number would probably vote "yes", on the basis that the proposed changes, though inadequate, would be better than the status quo.

Nor can it be assumed that one set of results in one province, dominant though it is in its share of parliamentary seats, would necessarily be repeated nationally. These caveats aside, the position is clearly far more finely balanced than it appeared earlier this year.

The main message of the poll for the Prime Minister is that the Afrikaans-speaking 60 per cent of the white population, who constitute the ruling party's traditional source of support, is now split down the middle.

The Prime Minister could not hope to attract the most radical white liberals by anything less than opening up the proposed multi-racial Parliament to the country's 21-million black Africans, who account for more than 70 per cent of the population.

If the 4,966 votes (10.1 per



Mr P. W. Botha: Carrying out mandate.

Chapman case going to Court of Human Rights

From Mario Medina, Athens

The controversial case of Alan Chapman, the London journalist murdered in Athens in 1971, will be taken to the European Court of Human Rights jointly by Nikos Moutakas, the man serving a life sentence for her death, and Mr Edward Chapman, the victim's father, who has questioned Mr Moutakas's guilt.

This was announced yesterday by Mr Yiannis Theodorou, Mr Moutakas's lawyer, who said that because Greece did not recognize the right of individual recourse to the European Court, this would be done through British channels.

The lawyer said he would probably go to Strasbourg next week after submitting here a petition for grace for his client on the ground that there had been a miscarriage of justice.

Reagan's MX plans set for Congress approval

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The political tide now seems to be running in favour of the Reagan Administration's plan to deploy 100 of the new controversial MX intercontinental ballistic missiles in existing Minuteman silos, starting in 1986.

Late on Wednesday a key House of Representatives subcommittee voted by 9 to 3 for a resolution that would make \$560m (about £370m) available for flight testing and engineering studies on the new missile. The Senate appropriations committee is expected to make a similar recommendation before the end of this week.

Within the next few weeks both the Senate and the House will also vote on whether to approve \$6,200m more for the construction of the MX for the next fiscal year.

The reason for this change in the mood of Congress — which has been blocking approval of development funds for the MX since the end of last year — has been written assurance by President Reagan pledging a new approach to arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

Talks on reducing strategic weapons (known as Start) are due to resume in Geneva on June 8.

In a letter to nine leading members of Congress Mr Reagan said he was conducting a review of the US arms control posture with the intention of

developing new negotiating proposals. Although the details of the new approach are still being worked out they will be based on the recommendations of the presidential commission, headed by retired General Brent Scowcroft, which was set up last year to consider the future of the MX after Congress had voted to block funds.

The commission recommended the deployment of 100 MX missiles pending the development of a smaller, single-warhead missile known as Midgetman. It was also recommended that in future arms negotiations the number of warheads rather than the number of missile launchers should be the basic unit of account.

It was argued that the present emphasis on counting missile launchers had encouraged the development of large multi-warhead missiles. This is considered dangerous by many experts because it increases the dangers of a "first strike". Many of the MX's congressional opponents have denounced it as being a "first strike" weapon.

One of the alternative approaches being considered by the President is a concept known as "build down". This would require both the US and the Soviet Union to destroy old nuclear weapons for each new one deployed.

China hit by killer hailstorms

Peking (Reuters) — Huge hailstones, tornadoes and torrential rain have battered central China in the past two weeks, killing at least 339 people and injuring thousands. Hunan province, China's biggest rice-growing region, was the worst hit.

Troops have also been called in to help with relief operations. The human storms were in keeping with odd weather patterns that have been affecting China and other Asian countries.

Last month, 54 people died in a tornado in Fujian province. Serious flooding has also struck neighbouring Guangdong, where at least 30 people have drowned this year.

Two killed in Chile protest

Santiago (AFP) — Two people died, at least 10 were injured and 350 were arrested in violent civil protests organized by the copper miners' union.

The protests were the biggest and the most violent since the military overthrow of the Socialist government led by Salvador Allende in 1973. The deaths occurred when police clashed with hundreds of demonstrators who started street fires.

Two injured in BA jumbo fire

Johannesburg (Reuters) — Two passengers were injured when more than 200 people used emergency chutes to evacuate a British Airways airliner after an engine caught fire at Jan Smuts Airport. One passenger suffered a fractured ankle and the other an injured hip.

Flames were seen coming from one of the engines of the Boeing 747 during takeoff. The two injured were admitted to hospital and the remaining 208 passengers, who were bound for London, were expected to leave on an alternative flight.

Joggers told: Don't overdo it

Moscow (AP) — Joggers have been warned not to run too hard too early in the day. The newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said that jogging often got a bad reputation because newcomers overdid it and suffered heart ailments as a result.

The medical advice to joggers was to ease themselves in slowly and to run only for seven to 10 minutes each day. "Above all, do not run in the morning, when the body is tired."

Statue angers Marley fans

Kingston (AP) — Jamaican police had to remove a 9ft statue of Bob Marley, the reggae singer, after music fans had pelted it with stones and fruit.

The fans were angry complaining that the statue bore no resemblance to their idol, who died of cancer two years ago. Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister, cancelled the unveiling ceremony.

Clergy beaten

Accra (Reuters) — Several Methodist Clergymen in Ghana have been beaten up by demonstrators backing the Government's controversial 1983 budget, one of their colleagues said. Roman Catholic and Protestant groups have previously criticized the government of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

Shame list

Manila (Reuters) — Philippines tax dodgers will have their names put on town hall notice boards as part of a drive to stop income tax evasion. The "shame list" was announced after a discovery that only about one-quarter of the country's 10 million potential taxpayers had filed returns.

Britons expelled

Bahrain (Reuters) — An American agricultural engineer said on arrival here that he and four other foreigners who had been members of a Christian group in Riyadh were expelled this week from Saudi Arabia. Mr Kenneth Smith said that the group included two Britons.

Boxer guilty

Florence (AP) — Tiberio Mitri, the former world middle-weight boxing contender, was convicted of possession and given a 16-month suspended sentence. Now 56, he lost to Jake La Motta in New York in 1950 in a fight for the world title.

Street battle

Buchum, West Germany (Reuters) — Six police were injured and three demonstrators detained after street clashes outside a congress of the West German neo-fascist National Democratic Party.

Missile attack

Tehran (Reuters) — Iran said that at least 10 people were killed and 105 injured in an Iraqi missile attack on the western town of Andimeshk, close to the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the Gulf war.

IMPACT INTERNATIONAL

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Galtieri throws spanner in Army's legal works

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

General Leopoldo Galtieri, the former Argentine President now serving a 45-day prison sentence, has questioned the authority of an Army court of honour set up to judge his conduct, according to informed sources. Together with a spate of new

disciplinary arrests of retired military officers, this development has further complicated the workings of the military legal system.

General Galtieri was arrested on April 12, after giving an interview in which he criticized senior military officers for leading the coup against him in June last year, and attacked the performance of General

Mario Menendez, governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine occupation.

The court of honour, chaired by retired General Elindio Sánchez Lahoz, was set up to determine whether the former President's statements constituted an attack on the good name of the officers mentioned. General Galtieri is refusing to accept its authority

The General's prison term expires on May 27, but he faces another challenge from the inter-forces commission investigating the political and military conduct of the war with Britain.

This commission, chaired by retired General Benjamin Rattenbach, is widely believed to be preparing a report critical of the members of the junta which took Argentina into war.

Kreisky's successor

Moderate takes over in Austria

By Our Foreign Staff

Austria is to have its first coalition government in 13 years after Socialist and right-wing Liberal Freedom Party negotiators agreed on a compromise programme likely to include modified tax rises.

The coalition, agreed at a fourth round of talks on Wednesday, will be led by Dr Fred Sinowatz, aged 54, now the Socialist Vice-Chancellor.

The Chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky, who has headed the Government since 1970, said he would stand down after the Socialist Party lost its absolute majority last month in the general elections for the 183-member National Assembly.

The Socialists, with 90 seats and the Freedom Party with 12 will have a 21-seat majority in the assembly. Both parties will now be asked to approve the coalition and Socialists will hold a special party congress next Tuesday.

Herr Heinz Fischer, the Socialist leader in the assembly, told reporters after the talks that both sides had made concessions with the Socialists amending personal taxation plans.

The coalition's tax package is



Dr Sinowatz: modest successor.

expected to include a rise in value-added tax from 18 to 20 per cent and a 20 per cent tax on interest from anonymous savings accounts.

The outgoing Chancellor, Dr Kreisky, will next week begin formalities for setting up a new government by calling on President Rudolf Kirchschläger. Dr Sinowatz is expected to present his government programme to Parliament on May 31.

Herr Norbert Steier, aged 39, the Freedom Party leader, who is expected to become vice-

chancellor, described this agreement as a "sound compromise".

The Freedom Party will have three ministries in the new government - Justice, Defence and economic ministry. The parties will discuss nominees for the posts within the next few days.

Herr Heinz Fischer, the Socialist Party spokesman said the agreement ensured that the Socialist goal of full employment would remain the new Government's key economic aim. There would be no change in Austria's foreign policy.

Herr Alois Mock, leader of the opposition Peoples Party which has 31 seats in parliament, called the pact "a coalition of losers" which would follow a Socialist policy of waste, debt and new taxation that a majority of votes had clearly rejected.

Dr Sinowatz, aged 54, is an immensely popular figure, due to the fact that he is very much a man of the people and a Socialist who believes in and practises the Austrian tradition of consensus politics.

Dr Sinowatz was born in 1929 in a working-class family

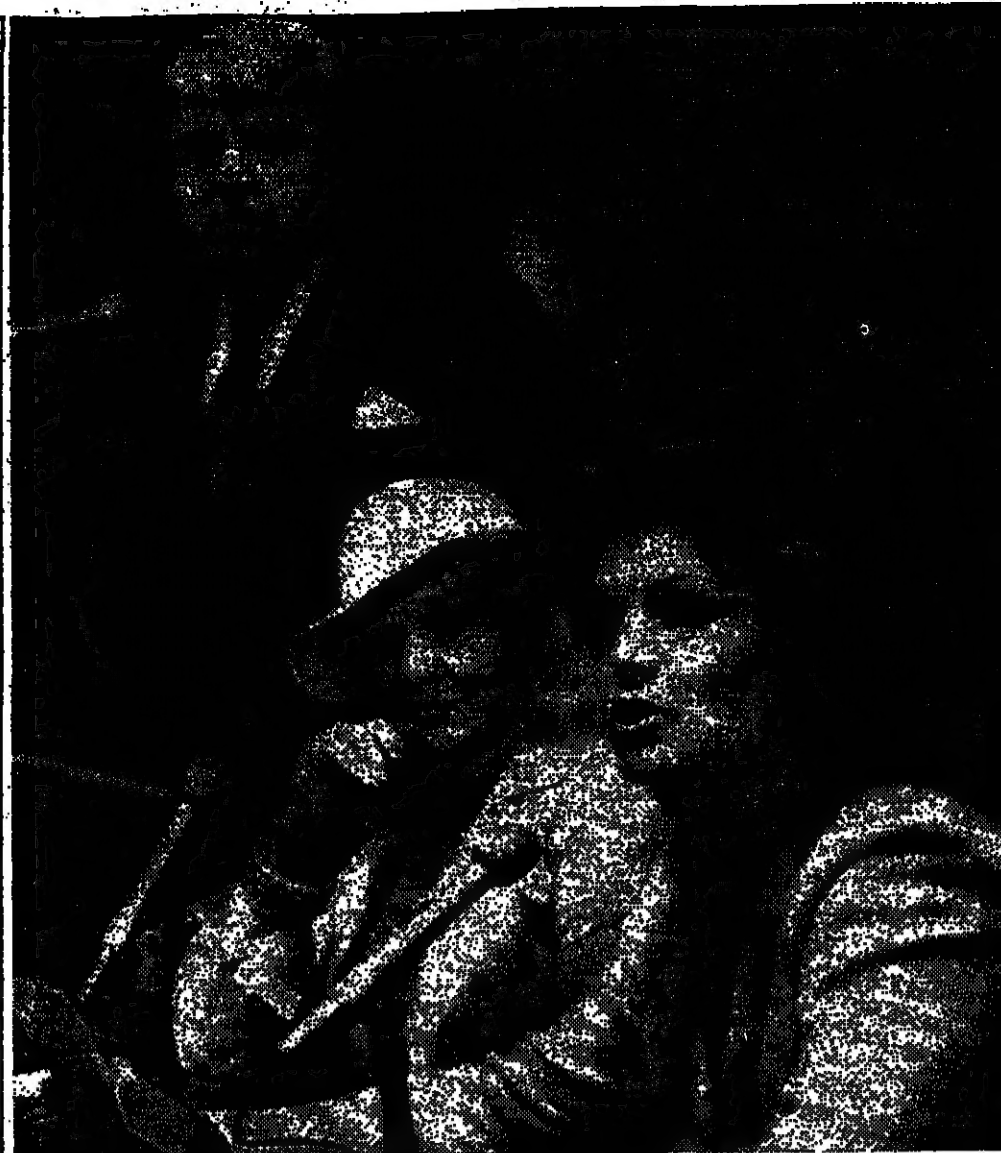
at Neufeld-Leitha, in Austria's eastern province of Burgenland. His parents belonged to Burgenland's Croat minority and he grew up speaking Croatian as well as German.

After graduating in history from Vienna University in 1953, he became active in the Socialist Party in Burgenland, entering the provincial assembly as party secretary in 1961. He was a member of the Burgenland provincial government from 1966 to 1971, when he first entered national politics as Minister for Education and the Arts, a position he has held ever since.

He was appointed Vice-Chancellor in succession to Dr Hannes Androsch.

Dr Sinowatz, a Freemason, is also known for his pro-Jewish sympathies and has been decorated by Vienna's Jewish community.

Short, portly and soft-spoken, Dr Sinowatz accepted his advancement modestly. Asked how he felt about succeeding Dr Kreisky, he said he would not try to copy him. "I shall always seek advice from him. But I shall always remain Fred Sinowatz," he said.



Commission to look into Australia's security

From Tony Dahoudin Melbourne

A royal commission is to inquire into Australia's security organizations, the second within ten years, which will include an examination of the relationship between Mr Valery Ivanov, the Russian diplomat expelled from Australia last month, and Mr David Combe, the former national secretary of the Australian Labour Party.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, announcing this in the Federal Parliament yesterday, said that it would be headed by Mr Justice Hope, who conducted a previous inquiry into security organizations in 1977.

The Prime Minister said that the commission would be asked to report on the circumstances surrounding the expulsion of Mr Ivanov. Mr Combe's involvement in that issue and the actions of the Government in the matter. Later he told a news conference that because of his close association with Mr Combe the matter had "hurt him deeply".

The Cabinet has not yet ratified the decision and will not meet until Monday. The Prime Minister made it plain that the decision was his alone.

"I am making it clear that I am responsible for the decision and I believe that the Cabinet, when it considers the matter on Monday, in the terms of the understanding I have at this stage, the position that I have put will be adopted by the Cabinet," he said.

Mr Combe said yesterday that there had been nothing improper in his relations with any member of the Soviet Embassy and in his opinion his relations had not given rise to any risk to Australia's security as suggested by Mr Hawke in Parliament on Wednesday.

The announcement of a royal commission came after a morning of turmoil in the House of Representatives in Canberra with Mr Doug Anthony, the leader of the National Party, accusing the Government of a "massive breach" of civil liberties and a denial of rights to a "citizen of Australia". He demanded a judicial inquiry into the Ivanov-Combe affair.

The royal commission will concentrate on the largest and most controversial of the security organizations, the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) as well as a full investigation into the Federal Government's ban on ministers associating with Mr Combe, now a lobbyist in Canberra.

When Communists disagree

Warsaw weekly's rebuff for Moscow

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Behind-the-scenes infighting between Moscow and a group of influential Polish Communists has left the party cloisters and came out into the open with a forcefully argued article in the latest issue of the weekly *Polityka*.

Polityka is Poland's leading political weekly, formerly edited by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, and is at the very heart of the part of the Polish establishment which favours economic reform and mild political liberalization.

It thus came as a shock to the Polish leadership when the Soviet foreign affairs journal *New Times* published a particularly virulent attack on *Polityka* and a number of its reform-minded contributors. Was this an attack on General Jaruzelski's reform programme, or merely a mild corrective to the liberal Marxists in the party?

Polityka's reply to the Soviet attack hedges its bets and defends itself by declaring that the Moscow journal had distorted the words and sentiments of its writers.

"Its author, Andrey Ryzov, in an unprecedented tone has

criticized the line of our weekly against the background of the current situation in Poland and the numerous political and ideological dangers which arise from it." The article says: "Because the fragments quoted by Ryzov do not always, in our opinion, accord with what *Polityka* authors really wrote, we now take the liberty of full quotations as they were actually published by *Polityka*."

The rest of the newspaper makes it clear, with political nudges and winks, that it intends to stick to its line and is completely loyal to General Jaruzelski. An interview with Mr Rakowski is published, as is almost a complete page of quotations from General Jaruzelski.

An article by Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, says that the line of development after martial law was declared "has the support of all our allies who are learning to look at our difficulties and uniqueness with patience and understanding".

According to informed sources, the issue was discussed at a session of the Communist Party leadership which gave the go-ahead to publication and also allowed news-stands to start selling the edition of the *New Times*.

As it happened, *Polityka* did not go on sale yesterday as usual but this was blamed on "distribution problems" and kiosk vendors pronounced it would be available by the afternoon.

The high-level interest shows the sensitivity of the subject.

Polityka demonstrates how its writers have been misquoted by matching quotation with quotation. The Soviet journal says that Mr Toeplitz for example, wrote "Poland should once and forever be declared a pluralistic country," a concept anathema to Soviet philosophy. But what Mr Toeplitz actually wrote is that Poland "is a pluralistic country, in which the pluralism is based on the reality of the socialist system."

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Wajda can still work in Poland

From Our Own Correspondent Warsaw

Andrzej Wajda, one of Eastern Europe's most outstanding film directors, was yesterday assured by the Polish Cultural Ministry that he can continue to work in Poland. But the Government is sticking to its decision to remove him as a studio head, saying that he failed to show the indispensable cooperation required by the authorities.

Mr Wajda is the latest victim of a campaign to ensure that creative unions and associations can never again become a bastion of support for solidarity to sever the links between the discontented artist and the discontented worker. The result has been a groundswell of discontent in Warsaw's non-Communist intellectual circles.

To activists in the journalists' and actors' unions - now banned - and the artists, film makers and writers unions, it seems perilously close to reality. The scope for creative activity within unions which have to swear loyalty to the socialist system appears, to many, to be severely limited.

Mr Hu Yaobang, China's party leader, reaffirmed yesterday that his country wished to normalize relations with the Soviet Union, but said that there were still serious obstacles to be overcome before genuine results could be achieved.

Mr Hu, speaking at a press conference here after visiting Romania, said the obstacles endangered the sovereignty and security of China. Normalization was of fundamental interest to both countries and to the world at large, but must be genuine and "not a sham that would confuse public opinion."

Protecting the past

Priscilla Presley, wife of the late Elvis Presley, with Ginger Rogers at a Californian state Senate judicial committee hearing in Sacramento.

They were testifying in support of a Bill promoted by Senator William Campbell (seen with them) to prohibit the use of a name or a likeness of a deceased celebrity without the approval of the heirs, Christopher Thomas writes.

The measure was approved by the committee and sent to the state Senate, where it is expected to receive unanimous support.

Hu sees Russian policy in Asia as big obstacle

From Deena Trevisan, Belgrade

Russia's policy in South-East Asia presented one of the main problems, as Soviet support for Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia directly violated principles which China could not renounce.

China's attempts to participate more actively on the world scene have been welcomed in Belgrade which regards close relations with Peking as essential in its own foreign policy.

Apart from meeting the key personalities in Yugoslavia's political life Mr Hu has also taken the opportunity of having discussions on the economy.

Mickey Mouse goes gunning for the pirates

From Richard Hughes Hongkong

Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck are taking legal action through Walt Disney Productions against nine Hongkong companies accused of copyright infringement by using them as trademarks for Hongkong products.

The Walt Disney Corporation is claiming damages for infringement or a share of the profits made by three watch manufacturing firms, two knitting factories, a shoe company, a store, an industrial company and a photographic supply firm.

Jennifer: "What was our sales budget for the calendar fiscal?"
Apple: "12,364 units."
Jennifer: "And ex-factory sales?"
Apple: "14,960 up to the Audit. That's already 21% over target."
Jennifer: "Hmmm. Not bad. What percentage of volume was the premium model?"

Apple: "51%. 27% over target."
Jennifer: "That extra profit means we can invest in new equipment to increase productivity next year."
Apple: "You mean I can have that new printer I've had my eye on?"
Jennifer: "Let's talk about it."

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Convoluting penalty point law deplored

Regina v Kent (Peter)
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Leonard
[Judgment delivered May 12]

When giving guidance on sentences involving penalty points for driving offences, introduced by section 19 of the Transport Act 1981, which came into force on November 1st, the Lord Chief Justice expressed the Court of Appeal's sympathy with courts which had to grapple with the "convoluted legislation".

It would be very surprising, his Lordship said, if judges did not make mistakes in this branch of their work. Those responsible for the legislation have done nothing to help.

His Lordship instanced three common offences in which consideration had to be given to three statutes between 1968 and 1981, four sections and three schedules, and added: "May we ask respectfully that draftsman in future give more consideration to those who have to administer this type of provision?"

Michael Peter Kent, aged 39, succeeded in an appeal against 12 months' disqualification and the order for endorsement on his licence of a total of 20 penalty points for offences of taking a vehicle without consent (eight points), driving while disqualified (six) and driving while uninsured (six).

At Knightsbridge Crown Court (Judge Friend), who sentenced him also to 18 months' imprisonment for burglary and the driving offences.

The court on appeal against disqualification and endorsement confirmed the disqualification and quashed the endorsement of penalty points. Mr Ayoub, Crown Counsel, for the appellant; Miss Judith Rowe for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that he took three relevant offences all three of which would be likely to have been committed taking and driving a vehicle without consent of the owner, driving while disqualified and driving uninsured.

As to the first, the statute creating the offence was section 12 (1) of the Theft Act 1968, punishment was provided for by section 12 (2) of that Act, whether the offence was subject to disqualification or

endorsement was to be found in Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, the power to disqualify for repeated offences was in section 19 (2) of the Transport Act 1981, the power to endorse in section 101 of the 1972 Act, and the number of points in Schedule 7 to the 1981 Act.

Driving while disqualified involved considering two statutes, four sections and three schedules, while driving uninsured involved two Acts, four sections and three schedules.

A number of practical problems arose in respect of the legislation. By way of introduction:

(1) Disqualification: A person appearing before a court might be disqualified (a) because the offence of which he was convicted attracted obligatory or discretionary disqualification; such offences were set out in Schedule 4 to the 1972 Act; the power to disqualify was in section 93 (1) and (2) of the 1972 Act; or (b) because the court was satisfied that a motor vehicle was used by the person convicted, or anyone else, for the purpose of committing or facilitating the commission of the offence.

Some examples were: (1) ordering consecutive periods of disqualification; (2) disqualifying and ordering penalty points to be endorsed on the licence; the correct result would be disqualification and licence endorsed without reference to penalty points; (3) awarding the incorrect number of penalty points; (4) disqualifying for repeated offences without allocating the disqualification to a single offence - see section 19(5)(a) of the 1981 Act; (5) ordering penalty points to be endorsed for more than one offence committed on the same occasion - the correct procedure would be to allocate a number of points to the correct offence; (6) failing to disqualify when the points exceeded 12 when there were no mitigating circumstances; (7) failure to state special reasons or mitigating circumstances; (a) when not ordering disqualification less than the minimum; (b) when not ordering endorsement of licence - see section 105 of the 1972 Act.

As to crown court record sheets: The crown courts had been making mistakes resulting in illegal sentences.

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Authority for prosecution not shown

Anderson v Frost and Another
Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Glidewell
[Judgment delivered May 11]

Where proceedings which required specific authorisation by a chief constable were in fact instituted by a divisional chief officer under a general authority given to him by the chief constable to lay informations in his name, where such authority was challenged in these proceedings, and where it was not shown to have been specifically given in the particular case, then the proceedings were not properly issued.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in dismissing an appeal by the Chief Constable of

Greater Manchester by way of case stated against a decision of the Stockport Justices dismissing informations preferred against Peter Henry Frost and Frank Hoyle Transport Ltd for offences of driving, and permitting the driving of a heavy goods vehicle without the appropriate driving licence, contrary to section 112 of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

Mr N. Richard Fieldhouse for the chief constable; the defendants did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the justices heard informations alleging that the defendants were guilty of offences under section 112 of the 1972 Act. The informations

contained the words: "Informant: The Chief Constable of the Greater Manchester Police".

At the hearing the defendants took objection to the informations on the ground that specific authority for the preferring of the informations was not shown upon their face, but on a general authority. They sought proof of specific authority from the prosecutor, but that was not forthcoming.

The justices accordingly found that there was no case to answer and dismissed the informations. They found as a matter of fact that the chief constable himself had not laid the informations, but that they had been laid in his name by a divisional chief officer.

The case of Price v Humphries (1938) 2 QB 353 was authority for the proposition that it was to be presumed that the informations were in proper form, unless and until objection was taken. At that point the prosecution should be in a position to prove that the informations were issued in the proper form with the proper authority.

In this case when objection was taken before the justices, the prosecution had not produced that authority. The justices were therefore entitled in law to conclude that there was no case to answer.

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No minimum benefit in UK pensions

Regina v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Browning
Before Lord Justice Evershed, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Dillon
[Judgment delivered May 10]

The Court of Appeal held that an insurance officer was entitled to review an award of retirement pension under section 104 of the Social Security Act 1975, so as to comply with a declaration of the United Kingdom Government that no "minimum benefit" within the meaning of Article 50 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71, was provided for under the legislation of the United Kingdom.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by the insurance officer, Mr Norman Ivor Browning, from a decision of Mr Justice Michael Davies, who had refused his application to quash a decision of the National Insurance Commissioner, Mr J. G. Moore, that the award under the Robert Stanley should not be reviewed.

Mr David Latham, for the insurance officer, Mr Richard Drabble for Mr Stanley.

LORD JUSTICE EVERSLED said that Mr Stanley, who was aged 75, was a national of Eire. He lived and worked there until 1955, when he came to the United Kingdom where he worked until May 8, 1973, when he attained the pensionable age of 65.

He had made insurance contributions in both countries, with the result that he was entitled to a pension benefit in both.

His UK pension entitlement was governed by the Social Security Act 1975, which had replaced the National Insurance Act 1965.

Article 50 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 provided: "Award of a supplement when the total of benefits payable under the legislations of the various member states does not amount to the minimum laid down by the legislation of the state in whose territory the recipient resides."

"A recipient of benefits to whom this chapter applies may not, in the state in whose territory he resides and under whose legislation a benefit is payable to him, be awarded a benefit which is less than the minimum benefit fixed by that legislation for a period of insurance or residence equal to all the periods of insurance taken into account for the payment in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Articles."

"The competent institution of that state shall, if necessary, pay him throughout the period of his residence in its territory a supplement equal to the difference between the total of the benefits payable under this chapter and the amount of the minimum benefit."

That supplement only fell to be considered in assessing a claimant's benefit if the country of residence had a minimum benefit provision.

In the UK, a person entitled to a pension was entitled to a flat rate if the relevant years showed average contributions of 50 weekly payments in the year. If the average contributions fell below 50, the entitlement was less than the flat rate.

The lowest average which entitled a claimant to payment was 13 weekly payments per year. Was that what was meant by "minimum payment"?

In March 1973, in anticipation of Mr Stanley's retirement, the insurance officer considered his case under the domestic legislation and made an award of pension to him. The EEC Regulation then did not apply to the UK.

On February 1, 1974, after the UK had become a member of the EEC, the officer determined Mr Stanley's case by reference to the Regulation, and made calculations of the benefit accordingly. In Eire, the same calculations were made.

If Mr Stanley's case was considered in the light of there being a minimum benefit in the UK, a larger figure than the total of the English and Irish payments would have resulted.

Therefore, if the UK legislation did afford a minimum benefit, he was entitled to a supplement, being the difference between that and the total of the English and Irish payments.

On June 18, 1973, a declaration of the UK, made under Article 5 of the Regulation was published in the official gazette, that there was no minimum benefit under UK legislation.

In 1973, the pension rates in Eire were increased. As a result, Mr Stanley's supplement fell to be reduced.

On a review in January 1977, the insurance officer concluded that he was not entitled to the supplement. His view would seem to be that the English legislation did not provide for minimum benefit.

Mr Stanley appealed to the local National Insurance tribunal. He was unsuccessful and appealed to the National Insurance Commissioner. By then, the UK, on April 14, 1977, had made another declaration that there was no minimum benefit in the UK.

The argument before the department was whether the officer had power to review Mr Stanley's payments because of a change of relevant circumstances under section 104(1)(b) of the Social Security Act 1975.

That provided: "Any decision under this Act may be reviewed at any time by an insurance officer, if there has been any relevant change in the circumstances since the decision was given."

In relation to the decision of January 1977, the declaration of April that year could not be a relevant change empowering the officer to review the payment.

But the commissioner was entitled to consider the case on the facts as they existed at the time of adjudication. Although he concluded that there had been a change entitling the officer to review the payment, he ruled that there was a minimum benefit to which Mr Stanley was entitled.

The insurance officer applied for judicial review and both parties agreed that a ruling of the European Court be sought as to whether there was a minimum benefit in the UK for the purposes of Article 50. The European Court said there was not.

The case then came before Mr Justice Michael Davies.

He accepted Mr Stanley's submission that the law had not changed, only the insurance officer's view of it had changed. Therefore there was no relevant change of circumstances, within section 104.

The true position was that in England there was no provision for a minimum benefit. But so long as there was a UK declaration that

there was, that was the answer to the question whether there was a minimum benefit.

Once that declaration was removed, there was no minimum benefit. A change of declaration was a change in the circumstances in which the question had to be considered. It was not a change of law, but a new fact which affected entitlement to benefit.

The 1973 declaration made it obligatory for the insurance officer to say that the legislation provided a minimum benefit, and required him to comply with EEC law. That change of declaration in 1977 amounted to a change of that law.

There was, therefore, no minimum benefit and Mr Stanley was not entitled to a supplement after April 14, 1977. The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Dillon agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS; W. J. Brazier & Forsyth, Worthing.

Curtis v Galgari Investments Ltd
The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Sir Denis Buckley) held on May 12 that the tenant of two adjoining premises used as a single business and let by the same landlord could apply to the county court under section 24 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 for the grant of two new tenancies in one originating application.

The court allowed an appeal by the tenant from the county court judge's order that the tenant's application for a new lease in relation to one of the two premises

was not a valid application for a new lease in relation to one of the two premises.

considering it legitimate to refuse planning permission because the proposal did not contain provision for increased parking space subject to public control.

In *R v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Royco Homes Ltd* (1974) QB 720, it had been held that it was *ultra vires* for a condition to be imposed, when granting planning permission, which effectively required the applicant to discharge functions which statute had placed on the local authority.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was equally *ultra vires* to refuse planning permission because the applicant was not offering to do that which it was the local authority's duty to do.

If an applicant had offered to provide some element of planning gain, that was a consideration which could justify granting permission which would not otherwise have been granted, but failure to provide such gain could not be a ground for refusing permission.

The appeal would therefore be allowed and the decision quashed. It was legitimate, though, for an inspector not to accept expert evidence and to use his own judgment on a planning issue.

Solicitors: Gouldens, Treasury Solicitor.

Westminster Renslade Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Before Mr Justice Forbes
[Judgment delivered May 9]

It was not legitimate for a planning authority or, on appeal, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to refuse planning permission to an applicant on the ground that the proposed development offered no planning gain to the local authority.

Mr Justice Forbes so held in the Queen's Bench Division quashing a decision of the secretary of state who had refused planning permission to Westminster Renslade Ltd for a proposed redevelopment of Feltzham railway station and adjacent land in the London Borough of Hounslow.

The appellant company had proposed a major redevelopment involving the building of offices, car parks, a bridge, a new station and a transport interchange.

The inspector who had conducted the public inquiry relating to the application recommended refusal on the grounds, *inter alia*, that the plans did not provide for enough car parking space under public control and that the number of offices proposed was excessive and not in

keeping with the needs of restructuring London. The secretary of state had accepted the inspector's conclusion and refused the permission sought.

The company appealed under section 245 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 to the High Court on the grounds, *inter alia*, that it was not a valid consideration in law that there was insufficient provision for public control of parking space and that the inspector's conclusion relating to the needs of restructuring London, which the secretary of state had accepted, had been a subjective judgment, unsupported by the evidence.

Mr Robert Carnwath for the appellant, Mr Simon D. Brown for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that, in relation to the provision publicly controlled car parking, the inspector had been wrong on two points.

The provisions of the Greater London Development Plan which dealt with car parking were directed to local authorities as providers of car parks, not as planning authorities. He had therefore been wrong to adopt those provisions as affording a planning consideration.

He had further been wrong in considering it legitimate to refuse planning permission because the proposal did not contain provision for increased parking space subject to public control.

In *R v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Royco Homes Ltd* (1974) QB 720, it had been held that it was *ultra vires* for a condition to be imposed, when granting planning permission, which effectively required the applicant to discharge functions which statute had placed on the local authority.

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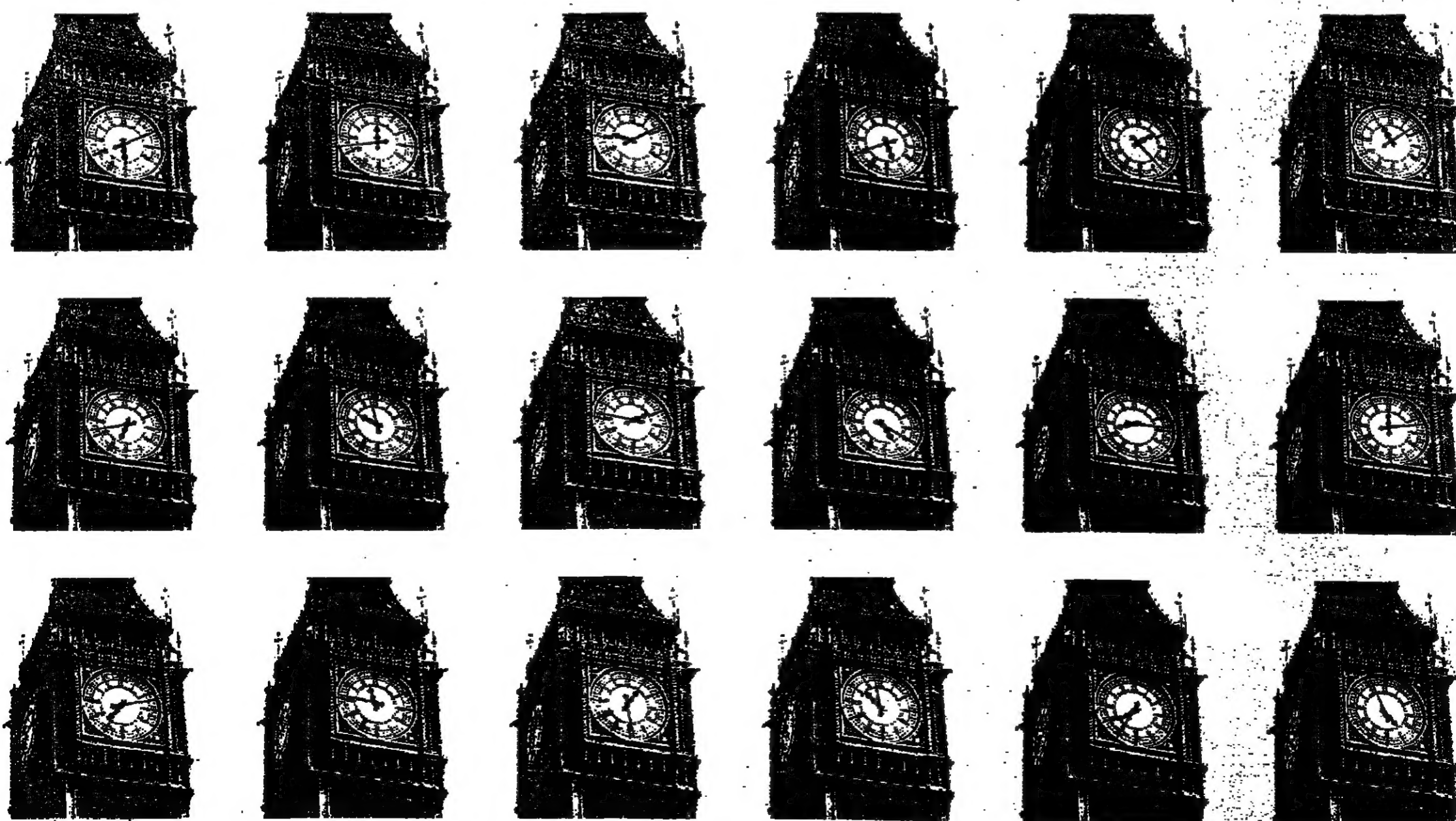
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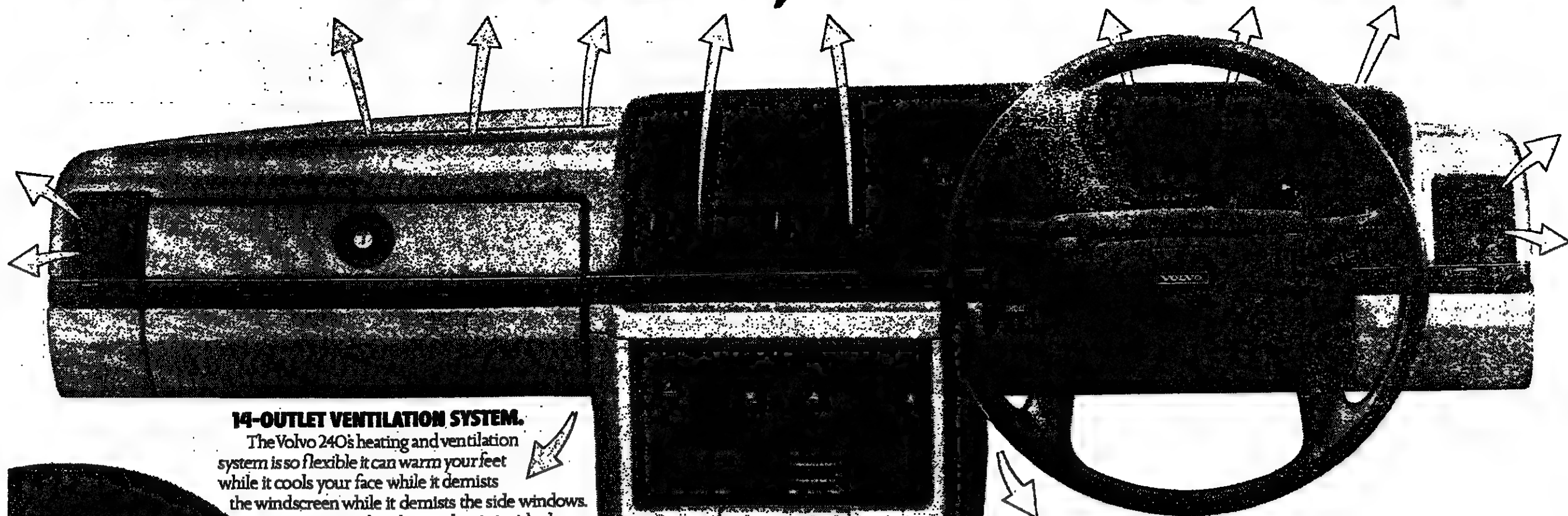
Solicitors: Gouldens, Treasury Solicitor.

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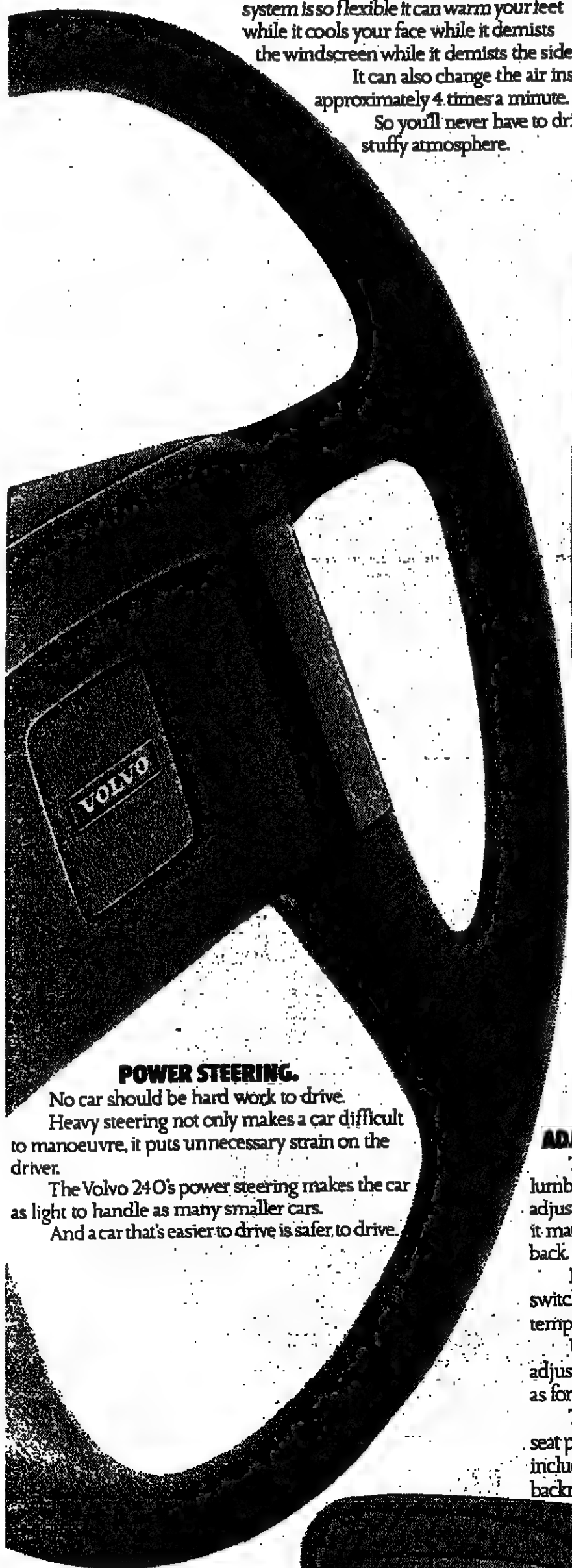


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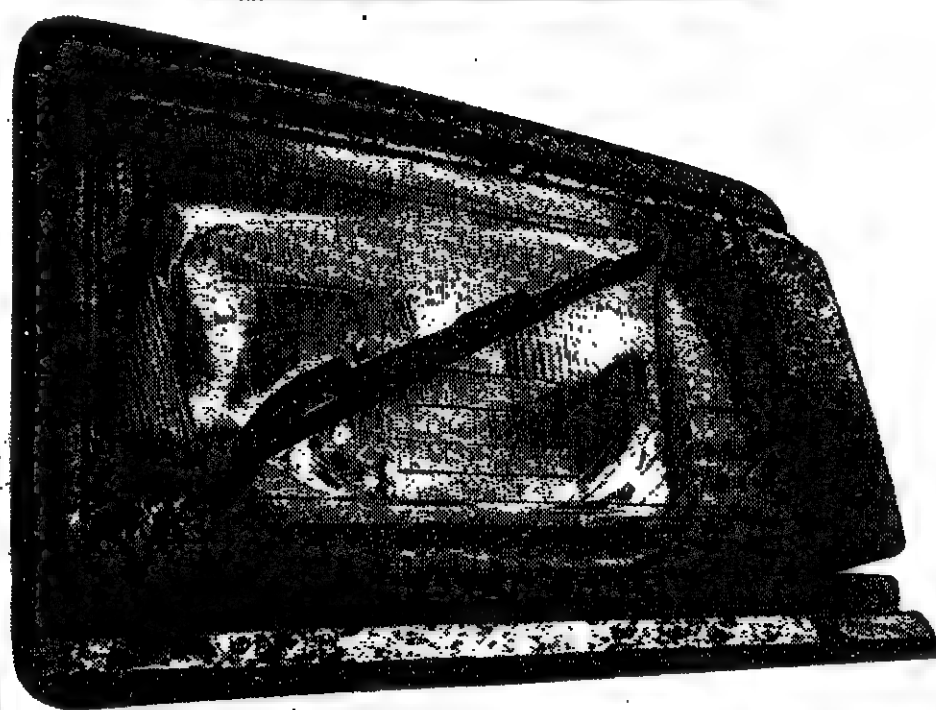
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SPECTRUM

Two stately homes pass out of the gentry's hands into an uncertain future

Lord Astor's exquisite estate is being sold but its castle will not be lost to the public

From Hever to eternity

By John Young

An 80-year idyll comes to an end next week. On Wednesday morning the Hever estate in Kent, acquired, enlarged and above all cherished by three generations of Astors, comes under the auctioneer's hammer, and a corner of England will be irrevocably changed.

The story of Hever is remarkable, as almost everything connected with the extraordinary Astor family is. William Waldorf Astor, sometime American politician, diplomat, novelist, newspaper proprietor, farmer, and as a naturalized British citizen, the first Viscount Astor, bought it in 1903. It was all but derelict, with cows wandering across the castle drawbridge. In the next three years he spent £10m transforming it into one of the loveliest places in England.

Last year, however, his grandson decided that paradise had lost its attractions. "I was having to spend too much money and the place was becoming more and more commercialized. My son was not interested in taking it on, so that was that. Of course, it's very sad."

After years of acquisition and consolidation, the machinery went into reverse. The first thing to go was the Henry VIII gate opposite the castle gates; then came last week's sale of the contents at Sotheby's. This week the livestock and farm machinery are being sold; next week sees the auction of houses, farms and woodlands, including the sporting rights.

The break-up has, perhaps inevitably, been attended by controversy. Earlier this year the Astors agreed to sell the entire estate of more than 3,000 acres to Broadland Properties, a Scarborough-based company, which made it clear that it was interested in retaining only the castle and grounds as a tourist attraction and would dispose of everything else.

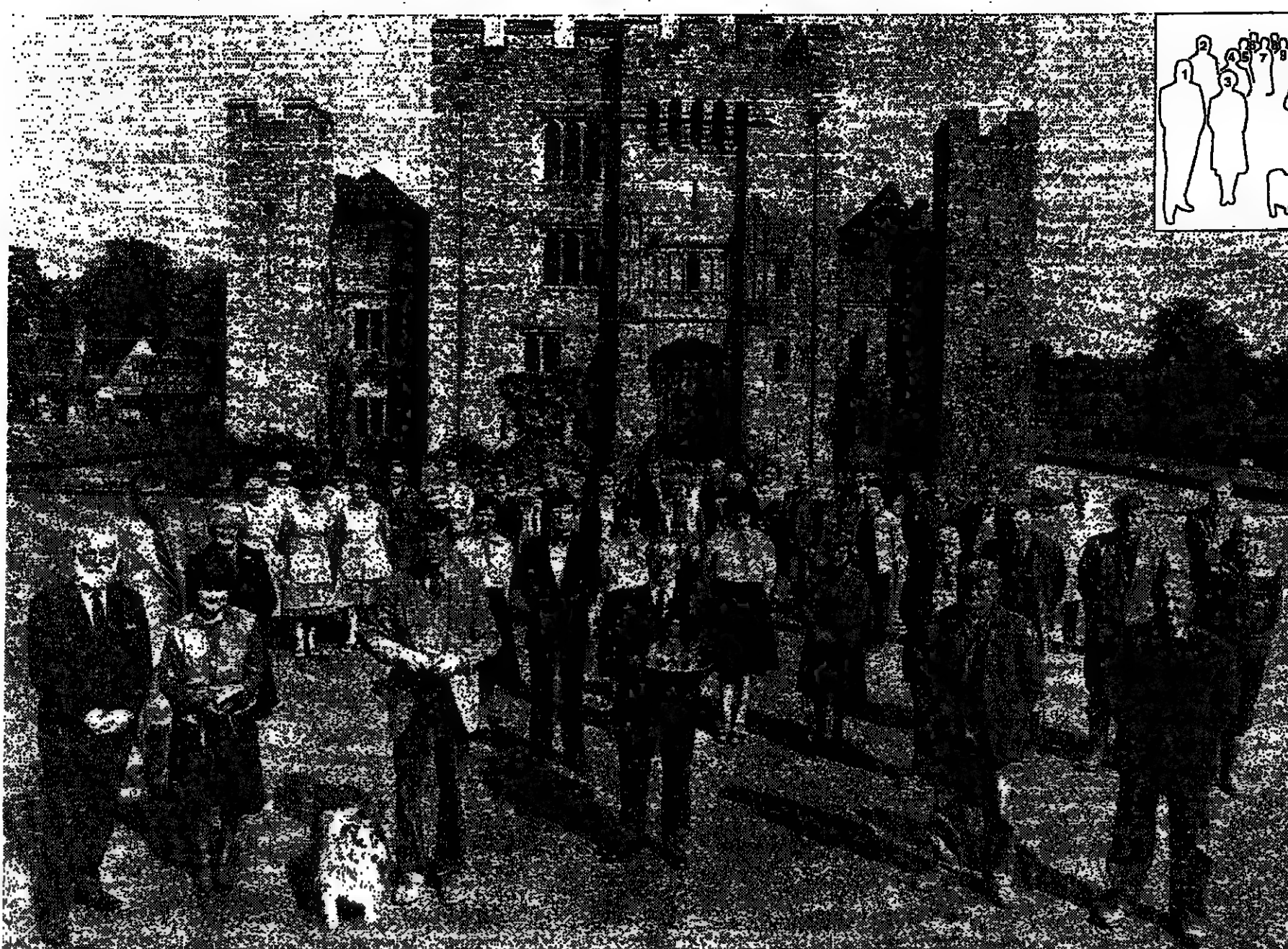
Many tenants and employees expected to lose their homes or their jobs, or both, and the tenants' association, led by Bill Hayward, found itself at loggerheads with the new owners.

Mr Christopher Scott, the Astors' agent for the last six years, maintains that Broadland has "behaved impeccably. Of course it would be ludicrous to pretend that everything has gone like clockwork, and certainly a lot of people have been, and perhaps still are, unhappy."

Mr Scott is not perhaps totally unprejudiced, since he is to continue his job under the new owner. But, he says, secrecy was necessary in order to protect negotiations with tenants who were being given the right to buy their homes. About half the 60 or so houses and cottages being offered for sale have been, or are being, bought by their present occupants; six out of the eight farms have also been sold to the tenants.

He regrets that some of the Astors' staff have been made redundant, including farm and forestry workers. He admits that some long-standing tenants, who at Lord Astor's insistence have been guaranteed rent-free accommodation for the rest of their lives, are resisting plans to move them from outlying houses into the centre of the estate.

But, he points out, it might have been much worse. "It might have been sold to someone from abroad who came along and put up a barbed wire fence, and Hever would never have been seen again."



KEN SEAL came to Haver 45 years ago to work in the gardens. Later he became a tractor driver, helped with restoration after the disastrous 1968 floods, and ended up as the butler. "I don't really have any great sentiment about the Astors going," he says. "The sale was certainly not handled as well as it might have been, and there's been a lot of ill feeling. I've already been offered £30,000 to get out of my house, but what can you buy for that around here except some poky little flat? And if we stay on as tenants, what happens when the property is sold again? Unless someone really, really, really takes it over, you can guarantee we won't be left in peace for long."



ORADIAH STAPLEHURST began work at Haver in 1940. After the war he became foreman at the home farm and then, when the house was opened to the public, was put in charge of the castle grounds. He retired last year. "I don't really have any great sentiment about the Astors going," he says. "The sale was certainly not handled as well as it might have been, and there's been a lot of ill feeling. I've already been offered £30,000 to get out of my house, but what can you buy for that around here except some poky little flat? And if we stay on as tenants, what happens when the property is sold again? Unless someone really, really, really takes it over, you can guarantee we won't be left in peace for long."



KEITH VICARY was born and bred on the estate at Mill Farm, Chiddington, where both his father and grandfather were tenants. Now he has just bought the 155 acre farm, on which he keeps cows and grows a few potatoes. "I'll have even more security," he says. "Everyone hates change, and country people hate it more than most," he observes. "Back in 1962, when the old Lord Astor had to go to France because, if he'd stayed in Britain, everything would have gone in tax when he died, people said it would be the end. But it wasn't. Then, when the house was opened to the public, people were afraid that everything would change. Now the fear is that one day it might no longer be open."



PAT HUMPHREYS, the secretary of the Haver estate office, knew Keith Vicary when he was a child. She is delighted that he has been able to buy his farm, but thinks he is talking nonsense about the threat from commuters and holiday homes. "Everyone hates change, and country people hate it more than most," she observes. "Back in 1962, when the old Lord Astor had to go to France because, if he'd stayed in Britain, everything would have gone in tax when he died, people said it would be the end. But it wasn't. Then, when the house was opened to the public, people were afraid that everything would change. Now the fear is that one day it might no longer be open."

As it is, the castle is to remain open to the public. So, too, is the wonderful Italian Garden, with its statues, grottoes and fountains stretching down to the lake which was dug with pick and shovel by 800 imported Irish navvies.

Mr Scott fears that the much publicized Sotheby's sale may persuade people that there is nothing left worth seeing. In fact, as he justifiably claims, the exquisite little castle, where Anne Boleyn's father once greeted Henry VIII and thereby consigned his daughter to a most unpleasant fate, is still full of furniture, pictures and Astor memorabilia.

Then, too, there is the "Tudor" village, built at William Waldorf's

behest to house his guests and surely one of the most delightful of forgeries to be found anywhere. At present it is scarcely used, but there is talk of making it a centre for conferences, banquets and other contemporary extravaganzas.

For all his loyalty to his new employers, Mr Scott cannot help regretting recent events. "My previous job was with the Duke of Wellington at Stratfield Saye, and I've always seen my task as trying to hold estates like this together," he says. "I've no doubt that the sale of houses like Belton and Doddington, and now Haver, are just the tip of the iceberg. In the next few years there will be an avalanche of houses coming on to the market, including some very famous ones."

Kedleston Hall, a showpiece of the 1760s, is being offered to the nation

A deal to keep the Curzons at home

By Geraldine Norman

There have been Curzons at Kedleston for 850 years. "What an inheritance!" exclaims Francis John Nathaniel Curzon, 3rd Viscount Scarsdale, the light in his eye betraying his joy in the place. "When I first inherited I used to tag along with the parties of connoisseurs being shown around the house, so as to learn about the pictures and works of art."

He also particularly likes to look out of the windows and point out the different vistas of the lake, the Adam bridge and waterfall, the landscaped parkland, now peopled with hundreds of sheep and lambs. "You can see that I must do all in my power to make sure that the family stays here."

Kedleston Hall is the masterpiece of the Neo-Classical architect Robert Adam. It was virtually built around Sir Nathaniel Curzon's picture collection, which remains set into the walls as he and Adam arranged it. The furniture was made for the house, such as the four giltwood sofas in the Great Drawing Room resting on merfolk and dolphins.

The whole is greater than the parts, a miraculously preserved showpiece of the 1760s. In the course of the next few weeks Lord Scarsdale intends to offer it to the nation in satisfaction of a £2½m tax bill.

"The most important condition is

that we should be allowed to live in the family wing in perpetuity," he says.

The resolution of Kedleston's future promises to be the test case for the new heritage legislation introduced since the Government was shocked into action by the dispersal of the art treasures of Mentmore by Sotheby's on behalf of the Earl of Rosebery, in 1977. In particular, it will test the efficacy of the National Heritage Memorial Fund which was set up in 1980. "Kedleston has been the best thing on the horizon from the start," says Brian Lane, the Fund's secretary. The Fund will be looked to for an endowment to finance the running of the house for the nation, and possibly help with purchases.

The case of Kedleston highlights the interplay of personalities, family history and taxation. Sir Nathaniel Curzon, who built the house, was ennobled as 1st Baron Scarsdale in 1868 while the work was still in progress. He was essentially a country squire; Horace Walpole commented that Kedleston was "too expensive for Scarsdale's estate." Indeed, his money ran out before the corridors and pavilions planned by Adam to flank the garden front could be built.

But by then "Sir Nat" had replaced the modest Queen Anne manor house he inherited by a palace with a porticoed and domed central block

HEVER'S EXTENDED FAMILY

... with 500 years of service between them

1 Victor Gauntlett, accountant. 2 Peter Collins, administration officer. 3 Sheila Ruthven, commercial secretary. 4 Joan Staplehurst, gift shop manager. 5, 6, 7, 8 Anne Warner, Rosemary Chilcott, Anne, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

connected by sweeping corridors to vast pavilions to left and right. He moved the village by a mile or so and landscaped the park with a lake on which Adam designed a bridge, boat house and fishing house.

Kedleston's greatest impact on British history, however, came with Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India from 1898 to 1905 and foreign secretary from 1919 to 1924. The present Lord Scarsdale, who succeeded his cousin Richard in 1977, is a nephew of the great Lord Curzon.

It was not until he was 35 that he first visited Kedleston, invited for the weekend by his cousin, who was still without a male heir. The full realization of his future responsibilities came in 1970 when he accepted his cousin's invitation to become a salaried estate manager at Kedleston. He moved into a house on the estate with his second wife and began to run the 5,700 Kedleston acres, which include the 500-acre park and 17 farms.

"The first thing I did when my cousin died was give myself the sack," says the present Lord Scarsdale.

"Then I reemployed myself on an unpaid basis. We knew the bill was going to be about £2m. We could sell land and keep the house, but I decided at quite an early stage that the best strategy for the family was to cede the house and its contents to the nation."

Successful heritage legislation has established that a stately home, its associated "amenity" land or park, and works of art of national importance can be exempted from estate duty until or unless they are sold, on condition of reasonable public access.

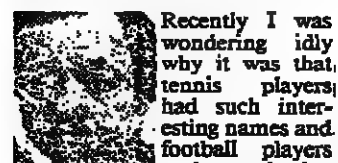
Only a couple of catches remain. While living in the family home, the family must find an income. And, if they sell any works of art that have been on view to the public, VAT must be paid on the amount realised.

In the case of Kedleston, the capital transfer tax liability arises almost entirely from the agricultural land. The house, art treasures and park are exempted. But the agricultural land is the family's source of income.

Lord Scarsdale hopes that the house will be taken over and run by the National Trust with an endowment provided by the National Heritage Fund.

The arrangement is well worked out except for one aspect, namely VAT. One year ago the Customs and Excise issued a "clarification" notice to explain that VAT was chargeable on the disposal of any art works which had been on show to the public in a stately home. Even if they are disposed of by ceding to the nation in lieu of capital taxes, the VAT is charged.

And who is expected to pay this VAT? An incensed Lord Scarsdale asks, "Muggins, of course!" His bill would come out around £300,000 and to pay it, he explains, he would be forced to sell the very treasures that he is now trying to cede to the nation. Kedleston will not be offered to the nation until the threat of VAT is lifted.



Recently I was wondering idly why it was that tennis players had such interesting names and football players such boring ones. In fact, I was wondering out loud in the privacy of this column, knowing that erudite readers of *The Times* might have something interesting to say on the matter. I was not disappointed.

Mr David Davies, of Redhill, for instance, says that football is in bad enough shape without my criticizing the names of the players. In defence of this decrepit game, which manages to be the favourite sport of the country against all the odds, rather as steak and chips is said to be the nation's favourite dining-out dish, he sends me a list of past and present inhabitants of the English League:

Bert Trautmann, Albert Johansen, Rachid Hakouk, Carlo Sartori, Peter Rhoades, Brown, Lou Macari, Forbes Phillipson-Masters, Reuben

Agboola, Peter Haddock, Proben Arantiff, Arnold Sidelotom and Anton Onukowki.

Well, fair enough, though still not quite in the same league as tennis. Mr Davies goes on to suggest (and he is not the only one) that the best exotic names are to be found in *The Times*, in the preserves called Births, Engagements and Weddings. This may be so, but in these hard times it is company policy not to alienate readers, especially not by naming them with satirical intent, so I pass straight on to a letter from Max Harrison, a name familiar from our Arts pages. Indeed, it is in the field of the arts that Max recommends looking for outlandish names.

"Consider Israeli composers such as Ram Da-Oz, Danish music publishers like Dan Fog, forgotten English composers such as Eric Fogg, Chinese calligraphers like Ngoot Lee, Russian 1920s novelists such as Ilya Iif, LSO chorus members

Set and match to Nutter Buzacott

Moreover, Miles Kingston

like Oona Skaggs, friends of Gertrude Stein such as Bravim Imbs, record producers like Wouters d'Oplinter, piano accompanists such as Ian Crane, dress designers like Bennie Ong, choreographers like Twyla Tharp, 1920s jazz banjoists like Eastern Woodford, dancers like Bob Een, pianists such as Enloe Wu (who should play the works of Marcel Poot, Serge Nigg and Klaus Egge), Dutch composers like Rud Bos, Romanian musicians like Constantin Stih-Boos, New London Chamber Choir members such as Pippa Thickness...

Such fecundity suggests that Max has been collecting these names for a long time, and when he goes on to confess that he is one of that select body obsessed with anagrams, I begin to fear for him. Another of that body wrote to reveal that my name is an anagram of Milking

These were/are all artists active in Australia in the last 40 years and, as they are little-known elsewhere, it seems clear they should have taken up tennis. Some better-known painters of the period (Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker, Arthur Boyd, not to mention Fred Williams), foredoomed by their names to pursue the arts would, I suspect, have met with little success on the tennis court at Wimbledon.

"P.S. (he adds), I overlooked Mitty Lee Brown, Dattilo Rubbo, Flexmore Hudson and Sall Herman."

I wrote back to Mr Crawford, ostensibly to thank him but in reality to ask discreetly if he had not made the list up himself. Certainly not, he replies. "I even knew some of them personally. If I could make up names as good as Nutter Buzacott, I would be a journalist myself by now."

The answer, I think, is to start patiently compiling one's own list. Mine is rudimentary at

the moment, consisting of two: the Danish jazz trumpeter Bent Persson and a conductor seen in last week's *Radio Times*, Heinz Giese. I am toying with a list of famous names in more demotic guise, headed at the moment by two more jazz trumpeters, Napoleon and Jim Dvorak. And I have a sneaking affection for a grocery store spotted two weeks ago in Venice, outside which I bumped into Richard Ingrams. In fact it was Mrs Ingrams who spotted it. "Look Richard," she exclaimed. "This shop is called Madricardo."

But it will be a very long time before I catch up with Max Harrison, whose letter ends (as does this article): "The Philharmonia Orchestra alone has Suzanne Birdcut as concerts manager, Keith Diggle as marketing manager, Lucy Breaks (too bad it's not Lucky) as promotion manager, Manuel Bebb as personnel manager, Linda Speck and Mark Luping as violinists, Trevor Snaod as violist. These last three ought to get together with John Hatt (cello) and form a quartet."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 59)

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FRIDAY PAGE

Love is... £2.5m in the bank

Judith Krantz, bestseller, explains
her escape capsules from a dull
world to Penny Perick

As the minibus full of journalists drove into the courtyard of Le Prieur hotel in Avignon, Judith and Steve Krantz were standing hand in hand under the horse-chestnut trees, in such a love-conquers-all pose that, give or take a few years, they could have been undergoing a screen test for the film version of one of Mrs Krantz's novels.

All three of these, *Scraples*, *Princess Daisy* and the latest, *Mistral's Daughter*, have reached the number one spot on the world's best seller list; all three have been bought for television. Judith Krantz's literary agent once had this vision, that, come summertime, every woman on every beach would have a Judith Krantz novel shielding her face. He must have meant the paperback version. The hard back of *Mistral's Daughter*, all 331 pages of it, weighs heavy. Sumbathe with that over your face and you would emerge with a flattened nose.

Although the admirer of Trollope, Balzac and Margaret Drabble, Mrs Krantz said over lunch that she was pretty certain that no book of hers would ever be nominated for a Pulitzer prize. "If it were, I'd think something terrible had happened. I know perfectly well that I'm not a literary writer, I just write the way it comes naturally. For lack of another word it is storytelling."

It is also a lot of money. Her advance for *Princess Daisy* was an estimated £2.5m, the highest ever paid for a novel. After *Scraples*, Mrs Krantz bought herself a pair of diamond earrings, after *Princess Daisy*, the brooch that matched them and after *Mistral's Daughter*, a sable coat, "because I discovered on a promotional tour of Glasgow that jewels don't keep you warm."

Letters from her readers are mostly thank-you notes. "They

nearly all say they were going through a bad period and reading my book was like swallowing a little escape capsule—I got a lot of letters from people in prison." I thought of drably uniformed prisoners reading the passage in *Mistral's Daughter* where the heroine glazes over the leaf-printed lining of her Karl Lagerfeld jacket. A more complete escape from regulation grey overalls it would be hard to imagine.

Her books also provide an escape for Mrs Krantz. Here she is, a small (five foot two inches) 36-year-old woman who goes to bed every night, blonde curls primly pinned, with the man she's been happily married to for 29 years. Here are her heroines, tall, wild-haired, whose limbs—by the time the last page is reached—have been wrapped around a long list of lovers. "What attracts me," said Mrs Krantz, "is excess—people who aren't ordinary."

"Writing is hard work but it should be fun at the same time, not agony. Writing about tall women is a wonderful way of being tall, although I'm not sure that in real life they have such a good time. When I was at college (Kellesley), I was called the Queen of the Blind Dates. "The first question a prospective date asked over the 'phone was 'How tall are you?' and I'd say, 'Listen, however short you are, I'm shorter'."

Apart from the explosive sex scenes, there's a fair amount of eating and drinking, some of it taking place at Le Prieur, in the latest book. "That's because I was on one of those terrible salt-free, alcohol-free diets while I was writing it and I guess I was just hungry. I try to write about a world that most of my readers can't enter. 'Glamour is always an illusion created by hard-working men and women. By taking



Judith Krantz: I'm not a literary writer — just a storyteller

my readers behind the scenes, showing them how a model is made ready for a photograph or how a commercial is put together. I feel that I'm demystifying glamour but still revealing how fascinating it is."

Her books splutter with the names of the real-life glamorous—the Vicomtesse de Ribes, Lauren Hutton, the '21' in New York, the Ritz in Paris. This absorption with names and labels is catching. Helping Mrs Krantz remove her white jacket, bridled in the same lilac print as her silk dress, I discovered its "Adolphe" tag, as worn by both Mrs Nancy Reagan and Magsy Lane, the latest Krantz heroine. Mrs Krantz obligingly removed her tiny purple shoes so that I could see the "Geoffrey Beene" on the instep.

The Krantz have always lived in a world attached to the right labels. Steve Krantz is a film producer who set up his own company to produce

the sexy successful cartoon film, *Fritz the Cat*, while Judith was a respected freelance journalist. The gentleman sitting next to her at lunch said in a nudge-nudge, wink-wink way that he was sorry he had never read her article called "The Myth of the Multiple Orgasm", whereupon Judith Krantz put down her knife and fork and gave him a serious and detailed summary of it, putting him off his *Pavé de boeuf à la maitre*.

She said that she had never considered herself a novelist manqué, convinced that she had no imagination. It was Steve who had moved to California where an allergy to sunshine kept her indoors, she wrote *Scraples*—"I'm living proof that you can never do anything until you try". To their lasting regret, Judith and Steve let the television rights go out of their hands but have

subsequently clung to the rights of the last two books. Right now, Steve, as executive producer, is involved in discussions with the television company which will screen *Mistral's Daughter* as to how the nipples which tingle their way through every chapter can decently be presented to a family audience. The company watchdogs, whom we blantly call censors are, in America, more delicately titled: "the continuity, acceptance people."

The Krantz charmingly went through their hand in hand beneath the trees routine as the minibus drove away. The man who had been told more than he really wanted to know about the myth of multiple orgasms said: "This is the best day of my life. Judith Krantz thinks I've got a dirty mind."

*To be published by Sidgwick & Jackson Monday, price £8.95.

COMMENT



Paul, Littlebourne, 1983

An Englishman's home is his castle, unless it is a building listed for historical or architectural interest.

We are used to seeing stately home owners selling pictures to pay for repairs to their crenellations; it is less well known that the humble cottager might be required to pay out large sums of money he does not possess, or even go bankrupt, to make repairs and to put the cottage back into the same condition as it was when it was first built.

My cottage is at Littlebourne, near Canterbury, one of a pair believed to date from about 1567. It was a hophouse in its day and the lease still prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquor. The front of the cottage and its neighbour are bisected by huge beams, containing brickwork in herringbone and other patterns in the Elizabethan tradition. A passageway down the side is also beamed and leads to a walled garden on two levels. The ground floor is rambling and the doorways built for dwarves, but — of great excitement to children — there are two staircases, each leading to two bedrooms and a bathroom. When I found the place I fell in love with the main bedroom, which has a high ceiling crisscrossed with beams, like a chapel. Being in bed there was like a very comfortable lying-in-state.

Last year, for financial reasons, I decided to sell and had a damp proof course and central heating put in and the cottage redecorated, inside and out, at a cost of £10,000, of which £1,400 was a grant from Canterbury council. As I was on the point of selling, a patch of dry rot was discovered near the back door.

I called in a firm of specialists, who promptly hacked huge areas of plaster out of each newly-decorated room, bored holes into ceilings, lifted floorboards and gouged out plaster and brickwork, leaving piles of brick and rubble on the floor. They then put in a bill for £11,000 for the job of curing the dry rot.

When I rang to complain — saying I had specifically asked for the decorations not to be spoilt — the firm claimed that Canterbury council officers had "instructed"

them to strip the plaster in this fashion.

A local builder called it "demolition and vandalism" and has sent an estimate for £2,037 to put right the damage. A surveyor who accompanied the builder could find no live dry rot, only dormant fungus and only in three places. It is evident that this was in existence when I bought the cottage (not uncovered by the building society survey) and has remained dormant and unchanging ever since.

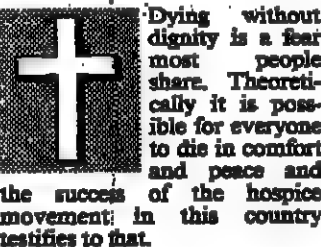
Now that Canterbury council officials are aware of the dry rot, it can apparently force the owner to carry out whatever work it deems necessary, however much money it costs and however little the owner has. Another specialist firm tells me the council officers also want to put right a huge beam which supports the valley gutter, where there is no dry rot, but beetle holes.

Though this beam and its supports are hidden by panelling, they would require the firm to cut off parts of the beam, replacing it with identical wood, and strip the peggles from the roof in order to carry out the operation. The spokesman for the firm told me: "This is quite unreasonable and unnecessary. If you were to put the house back to the way it was when it was built, it would cost you the price of the house."

Canterbury council is prepared to give me a grant of £2,880 towards the work, with another possible £1,440 Historic Buildings grant. This is hardly a great help with a bill of £11,000 and an existing bank loan to be repaid on previous work carried out. The council's latest letter contains this threat: "If it proves necessary, the Council does have powers to serve Statutory Notice requiring the execution of the works and, in default of the owner, may also execute the works and recover costs."

I used to be proud of the historic monument listing, but that was before I knew the extent to which a local authority could intrude into one's home.

Diana Patt



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Arranging for death with dignity

Dying without dignity is a fear most people share. Theoretically it is possible for everyone to die in comfort and peace and the success of the hospice movement in this country testifies to that.

But the majority of elderly people have no assurance that they will receive a high quality of care at the end of their lives. And their diminishing hopes have driven many people to join the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. A couple of weeks ago Mr Justice Woolf rejected a claim in the High Court that distribution of the society's booklet *A Guide to Self-Deliverance*, giving details of ways to commit suicide was an offence.

Dr George Robertson, consultant anaesthetist at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, suggests a third option for the elderly where fear and suicide have no place.

Patients could sign a statement expressing how they would like to be treated when they are dying. Dr Robertson has compiled a statement which begins: "It is my express wish that, beyond the age of (say) 65 years I develop an acute or chronic cerebral illness which results in a substantial loss of dignity, and the opinions of two independent physicians indicate that my condition is unlikely to be reversible, any separate illness which may threaten my life should not be given active treatment."

The statement is wordy based on a "living will" which is common in America, but with one major and important difference. Living wills in some states are legally binding and doctors who have refused to comply with the directions have been subsequently sued.

Dr Robertson envisages that his type of statement would give doctors some insight into their patients' beliefs. If a doctor believes he should disregard the statement, there would be no legal repercussions. But the statement could re-establish hope for some people that they will die in dignity.

The British Medical Association's ethical committee has taken Dr Robertson's suggestion sufficiently seriously to discuss its implications, "but decided to take it no further on the grounds that since it is possible for patients to tie in a confident frame of mind, pain-free and well-counselled, the statement is irrelevant and unnecessary."

Donor boost
Stories about kidney transplant always seem to be negative. A couple of years ago the number of potential donors dropped because people were

worried that doctors were not following strictly the brain-death criteria on patients on life support systems. More recently it has been suggested that the compulsory wearing of seat belts has been so effective that it has reduced the number of car accident donors.

But in the renal transplant unit at Leeds, the outlook is not so gloomy for would-be kidney recipients. Mr Pierre Guillou, consultant in charge, cannot remember the last time a car driver's kidneys were used in a transplant. Eighteen months ago one back seat passenger was killed after being flung forward in an accident and his kidneys were subsequently donated.

Most donors in the region have died after brain haemorrhages, with the occasional kidney coming from a motor-bike accident victim.

Vested interest

Some ex-colonials may sweat by vitamin B tablets for keeping mosquitoes at bay, but Dr Graham White, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is more sceptical. He says the evidence of the excretion of vitamin B in sweat acting as a mosquito-repellent is less than conclusive.

Dr White advocates using repellent chemicals on skin and clothes. One he recommends is marketed as Autum, which has the nickname DEET and another is permethrin. The School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will, for between £5 and £8 make up a strong vest steeped in DEET for anyone travelling to Africa or Asia.

It is important for travellers to prevent mosquito bites. The insects may be carrying malaria, and drug-resistant strains of plasmodium (the culprit causing malaria) are spreading west, both in Africa and south east Asia.

The number of people entering Britain with malaria is dropping. According to Dr Gill Lea, medical officer with British Airways, this is partly because British Asians travelling to the Indian sub-continent now realise that they must take pills, either because they have lost their natural immunity or because the area they visit has only recently become a malaria risk zone.

Problems with drug-resistant strains have only emerged in the last couple of years and until

new drugs and a vaccine are developed, which should take a few more years, difficulties may become more acute. Extra care must be taken to prevent the number of malaria sufferers coming into this country rising again.

Travellers to Asia, Africa and South America are advised to contact a vaccination centre before they leave. The combination of pills which will be recommended depends on where you are going and can change almost weekly; drug resistance has turned malaria into one of the most complicated areas of preventive medicine.

But pills are not everything. As well as taking insect repellents, you are advised to cover up after dark and use mosquito nets. Travellers who develop an unexplained fever should see a doctor. Malaria is now treatable, but can be fatal if the diagnosis is too late. For the string vests contact Amanda Callaghan, School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1.

Hidden factor

Britain's 4,500 haemophiliacs have been faced with the notion that the vital blood clotting factors they need could give them AIDS. They are, however, strangers to the idea that their treatment carries risks. They have already learned to live with the idea that they will inevitably develop liver disease — although not always with full-blown symptoms — because the clotting factors are contaminated by viruses.

The problem is that each batch of factor is produced using blood from around 3,500 donors and the chances of at least one donor having viral hepatitis are unavoidably high. Attempts to pasteurise the proteins have not proved practical. To some extent the risks of one form — hepatitis B — have been brought under control. Donated blood can now be screened for this virus and according to Dr John Craske, consultant virologist to the South Manchester Regional Virus Laboratory, only one in 20 batches is affected. As a result, most haemophiliacs can now enjoy four or five hepatitis-free years, whereas previously they would go down with the disease almost at once.

They will be lucky, however, to avoid another form of viral

hepatitis known as non A non B. As its name suggests this virus hasn't yet been identified.

Laser screened

EBC TV's recent *That's Life* exposé of Harley Street doctor Sisir Dutta highlighted the potential dangers of attending laser or cosmetic surgery clinics without being referred by a GP. Dr Dutta, who this week confessed in New York to heroin smuggling had, the team alleged, used a laser to remove a tattoo from a woman's arm, leaving her with a painful and disfiguring scar.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association this week reiterated a warning not to go to direct access clinics, made at last year's annual meeting. The association, which believes that such clinics should not be allowed to advertise directly to the general public and hence avoid the scrutiny of other doctors, is continuing to press for a change in the law.

Meanwhile it seems that television viewers have noted the programme's concern about lasers. A slump in business has prompted at least one other tattoo removal clinic to increase its PR activity.

After-care

The controversial morning-after pill which was cleared by the Director of Public Prosecutions this week is not something that women turn to regularly, at least when they are helped by well organized GPs or family planning clinics. At one of London's leading family planning clinics, the Margaret Pyke Centre in Soho, around 400 women a year are offered post-coital contraception because they have had unprotected sex.

According to Mr Ali Kubba, who takes over as deputy director of the centre on June 1, the latest figures show that only three in every 100 women return a second time in a similar predicament. Just under one per cent come back a third time and only one woman seen at the centre has requested morning-after contraception on four occasions.

The reason, Mr Kubba explains, is that it is made absolutely clear to the women that this is an emergency measure. Both the family planning advice nurse and the patient's doctor press her to choose a secure method of contraception.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser
Olivia Timbs is editor of *Medicoeconomics* and Lorraine Fraser is science editor of *General Practitioner*.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



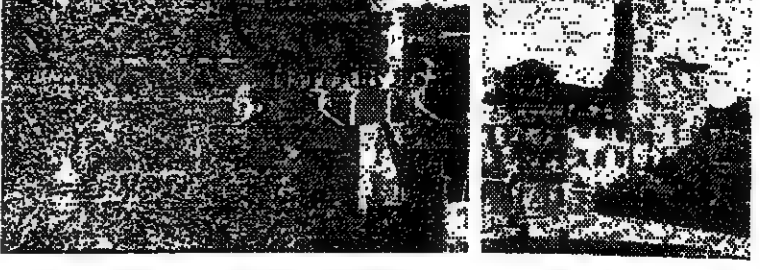
● A fisherman's tale: Stewart Tandler casts an eye on fly fishing

● Family Money: Interview with Gerard Vaughan, Consumer Affairs Minister; are you getting the right insurance for your home loans?

● Travel: Walt Disney's new fantasy world; and the other Tuscany



● Richard Attenborough defends 'Gandhi'



● The Times Prize Crossword: Three copies of The Times Atlas of the World to be won

● Sport: The relegation battles

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the top gardening column; Summer wines, Values: The Duke of Edinburgh's awards for the best design; paperbacks of the month; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts

THE TIMES DIARY

Horse sense

Here is the first of the political originals to whose independent notions I have promised space during the election campaign. He is Richard Booth, who will contest Brecon and Radnor for the Rural Revival Party. Booth uses a horse and cart to deliver books from his second-hand bookshop in Hay-on-Wye, the biggest in the world. He campaigns against mechanization and technology in the countryside, and has had a war with his local Fine Fare over his conviction that all imported food is inferior to local produce. He says traditional crafts must be revived to save the economy of rural areas, and wants horse drawn transport reintroduced to provide more jobs for carriage-makers, blacksmiths, saddlers, wheelwrights and harnessmakers. I think he should win, campaigning as he does for a stable economy.

Spoken for

The retiring Speaker, George Thomas, is saying his farewell at Westminster today, but he remains in office, and continues to draw his Speaker's salary, until Parliament reassembles on June 15. He has engagements to fill during the election period, though all of a properly unpartisan nature. He will be visiting the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and opening a new Methodist church in Durham. The Methodists there may ask whether they should alter the memorial plaque they have built into the new church. Thomas told them it would not be necessary, since he continues to be Speaker until Parliament reassembles and a successor is elected and dragged unwillingly to the chair. On that day Thomas will not be at Westminster. He will be attending Oxford University to receive an honorary doctorate. It will be his tenth, a record for any Speaker.

Uncommon luck

The coming of the general election denies my colleague Philip Webster the privilege of being hauled before the House of Commons committee of privilege. The motion to refer Webster's full and accurate account of a select committee draft report on the Falklands to the select committee does not come before the House until the matter is referred to the select committee. It is not until the matter is referred to the select committee that the House will have the opportunity to vote on the matter. The House will have the opportunity to vote on the matter. The House will have the opportunity to vote on the matter.

Cabinet bets

A group of Tory young lions, parliamentary private secretaries, held a farewell dinner this week and indulged in some speculative Cabinet-making. With surprising unanimity they agreed that if the Conservatives are re-elected there will be no place in the Cabinet for Francis Fynn. The majority expect Geoffrey Hain to become foreign secretary, and Willie Whitelaw to succeed in vetoing Norman Tebbit as his successor at the Home Office, the job going instead to Cecil Parkinson. Jim Prior they tip to stay in Northern Ireland, and Peter Walker to go to trade. One other thing upon which most agree is that Ian Gow, Prime Minister's favourite though he be, will still not make it to the Cabinet.

What does the nation do with 17,000 lavatory roll holders a week? Ken Pierce, managing director of Metrex Industries who alone sell 200,000 holders a year, says it is a mystery why the bottom has not dropped out of the market long ago. Are there really that many rusty nails which still have to be replaced?

Not just an act

Wednesday was a disastrous night in the London theatre. Peter Noone, who plays Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Drury Lane, slipped a second time in mid cat-like tread. Last time, on his first night, he broke a wrist. On this occasion he has cracked a rib. Meanwhile, at the Savoy where Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* is all about a theatrical disaster, the safety curtain stuck at the interval and would not budge. Customers, once they were convinced it was not part of the plot, got their money back.

Pay now...

Lord Bethell, the Conservative MEP dedicated to bringing down European air fares, has at last been given a date for his case against Sabena, claiming that airline price-fixing rules flout the Treaty of Rome. It will be heard in the High Court on June 13, almost a year since his unsuccessful bid for a low-cost hearing in Wandsworth county court. Bethell's pleasure at the news is tempered by the fact that Sabena has engaged a highly paid QC, Peter Scott, for the case. Bethell has been told that, because he might be liable for costs, he must set aside £12,000 for barristers' fees alone for the one-day hearing.

Yesterday I ate the last oyster of the season, by way of a taster for the Oyster and Shellfish Festival later this year organized by five London restaurateurs and American Express. Over a champagne breakfast at the Breganze in Soho I learnt that the oyster has two hearts, changes sex every year, grows a propeller and has a sensory system like radar. I have passed this on to the Ministry of Defence.

Why the war clouds are again gathering over Lebanon

Beirut
The Palestinian guerrilla officer sat in the coffee shop of the Meridien Hotel in Damascus, enjoying the western decor, dragging constantly on an American cigarette, holding it between two maimed, half-amputated fingers. "I will tell you this," he said excitedly, "there have been Russians in the Bekaa Valley. The Syrians took two lorries filled with Russian troops to Chisrou. Our people in Lebanon saw them there. It was to show us that the Russians are behind Syria, that we will not be let down again. Afterwards, they drove the Russians back to Syria."

The Palestinian admitted that he had not personally seen any Soviet troops in the Bekaa, but he clearly believed what he had been told. "We will not be let down again," he repeated. "Just look at the new missiles that the Russians have given the Syrians. These are really powerful rockets. The Israelis will have to be careful next time."

There is a curious, almost mutual self-interest these days between the Syrians and Palestinians in Lebanon and the Israelis in the southern half of the country. With considerable less enthusiasm for Palestinian political objectives but with equal emphasis, Israeli spokesmen have been talking over the past two weeks about the dangers of increased Soviet involvement in Syria. Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister, has been warning the Americans of the presumed Russian menace and the Israeli Prime Minister himself expatiated on the subject to George Shultz, the American Secretary of State. In both Jerusalem and Damascus, you can find officials who will swear to you that those two Soviet-crewed Sam-5 missile batteries in Syria represent a major shift in the balance of power between Syria and Israel.

The truth is somewhat more prosaic, definitely more complex but potentially just as fraught with danger. The Russians have certainly increased both their presence and their military commitment to Syria. Soviet technicians have entered Lebanon in the past to calibrate Syrian ground-to-air missiles. Soviet air defence personnel man the Sam-35 sites at Dnair outside Damascus and south of Homs. There are up to 3,000 Soviet military advisers and their families training the Syrian army. But there are no Russian combat troops in Syria and President Assad is at present showing no sign of requesting their presence. In Lebanon, no independent witness has yet identified Soviet troops, not even with snow on their boots.

Seen from Israel - and perhaps from the West as well - even this limited Soviet involvement might appear unnecessary. If the Israelis are prepared to leave Lebanon, why should Syria be unwilling to do so? Why should the Russians place missiles in Syria which could hit aircraft over Tel Aviv? Why should the Soviet Union condemn the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement? Why should Moscow suspect some kind of conspiracy in the presence of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut?

From Moscow and from the other side of the Syrian border, however, things do not look quite so simple, or innocent. The Russians are deeply troubled about the new American involvement in Lebanon.



A Russian Sam missile is fired from a Syrian mobile launcher during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Now the Israelis are concerned that missiles could hit their aircraft over Tel Aviv and have set up a radar surveillance system close to Syria's southern border.

The multinational force is not made up of United Nations peacekeepers but of troops from the United States, France, Italy and Britain. Beirut has over the past eight months been transformed into what is in effect a Nato base, complete with all the logistics and intelligence apparatus that the western alliance chooses to place at its disposal. The waters off Beirut have become, quite literally, a Sixth Fleet anchorage.

Moscow had always previously accepted a political balance between Lebanon and Syria, the former being generally regarded as pro-Western and the latter as pro-Soviet. The definitions were never codified on paper, but the distinction has now been blurrily blurred by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The Syrians, for example, believe that Israel intends to maintain its new surveillance base on the Barouk Mountains high above the Bekaa Valley even after the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon.

From the heights of Barouk, the Israelis can look deep into central Syria. More to the point, their radar installations, besides a clutch of prefabricated houses and only a mile or so from some of Lebanon's ancient cedars, can penetrate far deeper into the Syrian hinterland than those which the Israelis maintain on Mount Hermon. They can pick up Soviet radio traffic between Damascus and Moscow as well as provide Israel with a battlefield surveillance centre in a future war.

There are, of course, other reasons for the Soviet Union's increased military assistance to Syria. Last summer its battle tanks - crowded by the Syrian army - were blown to

pieces in the Bekaa. Syria's Mig-21 fighter aircraft were shot out of the sky by Israel's American manufactured Sidewinder rockets. Israeli planes destroyed every Sam-6 anti-aircraft missile site in the Bekaa. The Soviet Union's loss of prestige was enormous in those Third World countries which had relied upon Moscow for arms. Even the Soviet-made hand-held Sam-7 missile proved to be useless when the Palestinians tried to use it against Israeli planes over Beirut.

Having thus invested the prestige of their weapons technology in the Syrian "missile trap", the Soviets have naturally looked through this window of opportunity for political gains. If Syria must rely on Soviet military support to withstand Israel then she can be, and is, encouraged to reject American peacekeeping in the region.

President Assad controls a ruthless police state which shows no mercy to its internal opponents, but he is no Soviet lackey. Mr Kossygin himself was in Damascus in 1976 when President Assad first sent his troops into Lebanon, but the Soviet leader only discovered what the Syrians were doing in a telephone call from Moscow. The Syrians and Russians however, have found mutual advantage in objecting to President Reagan's plans for the Middle East. The Syrians are demanding their own terms for a withdrawal from Lebanon. They want to discuss the return of occupied Golan and, more immediately, a security zone of their own comparable to that which the Israelis will apparently receive in southern Lebanon.

Robert Fisk

Bernard Levin on the plight of a new victim of Soviet persecution

Prisoners' friend who now needs help himself

One of the most tragic, horrible and familiar aspects of life in totalitarian countries is the use by the authorities of false confessions, extracted by anything from relentless psychological pressure to physical torture (and - the most recent development, pioneered in the Soviet prison-machhouses - drugs), in which the victim is brought not only to assert that he is guilty of crimes he has never committed but to incriminate other, equally innocent, people.

Just such a case is reported from the Soviet Union. For nearly a decade there has been in existence a charity called the Russian Social Fund, the purpose of which is to bring material help to the destitute families of those in prisons or concentration camps for their beliefs; the fund's organizers take no part in dissident activities, their work consisting solely of the alleviation of distress. (The fund's resources come from the royalties of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, and it is administered in the West by Natalia Solzhenitsyn, his wife.)

The Leningrad manager of the Russian Social Fund was Valery Repin. He was arrested in December 1981 and was kept in complete isolation in a KGB prison for 15 months. It is perhaps best not to let the imagination dwell upon what he suffered there whatever it was, it worked for this courageous and honourable soul was paraded on Soviet television on March 1, 1983, when, looking and sounding like a broken man, he "confessed" - with, as he was obliged to put it, "the help of investigators".

"His" statement, reminiscent of the speeches from the dock in Stalin's show trials, included a denunciation of the Russian Social Fund as a spy organization, funded by "special services" in the West. The authors of the confession also alleged that the fund had been used, by him and others, to gather secret information and to disseminate slanders against the State. Repin is now on "trial".

The reason for this sinister and disgusting performance by the KGB

was soon to be apparent. On April 7, the chief representative of the fund in the Soviet Union, Sergei Khodorovich, was arrested in Moscow. A show trial is possible, under Article 64 of the Soviet penal code, which carries the death penalty; it seems unlikely, however, that even the KGB will be able to break Khodorovich's spirit, in which case he will probably be condemned in secret and never heard of again, unless western opinion can be rapidly and effectively organized in protest.

Khodorovich, knowing what was in store for him as soon as Repin was put forward on television, made a statement a few days later. It included these passages:

"The authorities have always persecuted those who dared to help political prisoners in our country, and with the appearance of the Russian Social Fund... the repressive measures have taken on an ever increasing brutal character. Thus, from threats, searches, interrogations, dismissal from work, arrests... beatings by unknown 'bandits' on the streets or at home entrances, they have reached, finally, Article 64, which proposes the death sentence. The fact of the matter is that although sympathy and mercy - i.e., in simple terms, humanity - are clearly incompatible with communist ideology, nevertheless charity is not formally forbidden by Soviet law. Thus the authorities have resorted to calling the Fund a spy organization... The Fund is designated to help prisoners of conscience... to help them physically survive... The Fund is not at all an organization... there is simply no organizational structure or membership... it stands apart from politics, helps those who are unjustly persecuted, without distinction to their convictions and beliefs... I testify that V. T. Repin conscientiously distributed all the money given to him for those under his care, that he did not spend the Fund's money on any other activity."



Sergei Khodorovich: sudden death or show trial

It is worth mentioning that the fund is under the jurisdiction of the Swiss government, which (in view of the very strict rules of Swiss neutrality) guarantees its humanitarian and non-political status. Many brave Soviet citizens have contributed to it inside the country.

Sergei Khodorovich is in mortal danger. It may be useful, in helping to evaluate the nature of the work for which he has been condemned, if I allude to the case of one typical Soviet prisoner of conscience, Father Gleb Yakunin, a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. Father Yakunin has been campaigning for religious freedom in the Soviet Union since 1965, when he was 31; like many such campaigners, he rested his case on provisions in the Soviet Constitution which guarantee religious freedom; he was, in other words, asking only that the law should be obeyed by the authorities.

Father Yakunin was arrested in November 1979 and sentenced in September 1980 to five years in a concentration camp followed by five years of internal exile; the crime of which he was convicted was his participation in setting up the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights in the USSR, following the Helsinki Agreement by which the Soviet

Union was committed to recognize and respect religious rights. Father Yakunin has been deprived, in the concentration camp, of all outward symbols of his priesthood, and even of the Bible. He has never ceased, however, from trying to spread his Christian faith among his fellow prisoners, and for this he has been confined to a punishment cell, described as a "freezing stone cubicle, without clothes, a bed or food"; he has also been denied permission to correspond with his family.

Father Yakunin is suffering under Andropov; but he stands in a long line of religious martyrs to Soviet communism, which began with the murder of Vladimir Bogoyavlensky, Metropolitan of Kiev, shot before the walls of his monastery at the outset of Lenin's dictatorship. Today, though little can be done inside the Soviet Union to help Father Yakunin and his brothers and sisters in suffering, at least their families can be sustained. But that is precisely why the charitable fund set up to help them has incurred the savagery of the present Soviet state. Why Valery Repin is on trial, and why Sergei Khodorovich, unless his persecutors have him murdered in prison, will follow him into the dock.

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David Watt

The polls are for, but history against

We are now embarking on the twelfth British general election since the end of the Second World War, and it is comforting, as we do so, to reflect that the track record of the electorate over the last 11 is very solid. Of course mad partisans (and perhaps the "stability at all costs" school of the CBI) may insist that an unbroken Labour or Conservative rule of 38 years would have served the country best, but any reasonably impartial person is bound to concede that the voters have always made a thoroughly defensible collective decision.

As a hard-bitten crossbencher, I would go further and say that there are only two postwar contests - the 1959 election and the first election of 1974 - which have produced in retrospect the "wrong" winner, and even those two are highly debatable. (Gaitskell, in 1959, was an untimed quantity and in 1974 the wrong answer was returned, but Heath's was basically the wrong question.)

What is clear, however, if one reviews the record, is that Mrs Thatcher is asking for something the British voters have not given to any government this century - a clear mandate to carry on for a second full term with the same leader as won the previous election. As it happens, only three prime ministers since 1900 have had the nerve, the luck, and the survivability to ask the question at all, and all received highly unsatisfactory answers. Baldwin was ignominiously overturned in 1929 by the first unqualified Labour victory. Atlee was given a tiny lead in 1950 but only enough to last another 18 months. Wilson received a mandate, and unexpected co-operation from Edward Heath in 1970.

This is not a particularly encouraging omen for the present regime implying, as it does, that the electorate seems to find four or five years about as much as they can take of any given political leader before boredom or discontent sets in. It is an important precedent because it defines very clearly what is certainly one of the central puzzles of the 1983 campaign, and may indeed be the most important of all, namely how much of an asset is Mrs Thatcher herself?

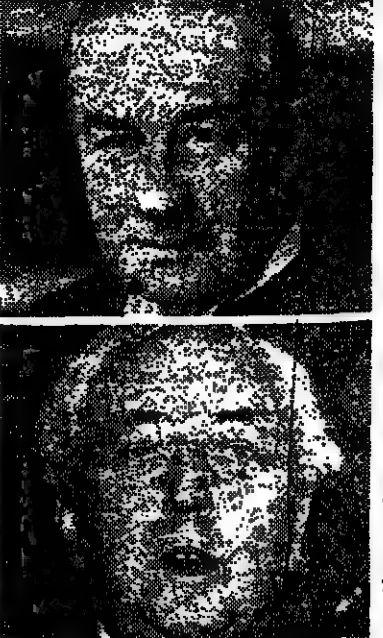
It is obvious that at the moment, the still impresses the voters and is the biggest plus her party possesses. But it is my impression that she is now past the peak of her popularity. She was fortunate, in a way, that she did not come across more clearly in the first two years of her prime ministerial tenure. It is one thing to say that she has burned up less political credit than some others at the same stage. Harold Macmillan, for instance, became "Supermac" within 18 months of coming to power, won his election within two and a half years, and was well over the top 18 months after that. In Mrs Thatcher's case, she only began to emerge as a dominant personality after the defeat of the "wets" 18 months ago, and only established an overwhelming ascendancy after the Falklands affair last spring. She therefore still has some political mileage in her. The question is how much?

Here again, we are all expressing our hunches, but I should answer "quite a lot of mileage, but perhaps not enough to last through the election if she insists on maximum speed". This is, I emphasize, nothing to do with her merits or demerits; it is just a question of the incurable tendency of men's minds towards novelty. She has had a stupefying amount of exposure in the last 12 months. She has also used up quite a bit of fuel in the run-up to the election date, which is not important in itself, but has meant that she has been constantly on the

screen for weeks in the guise of a calculating party politician rather than as the personification of the national will that she would prefer to be.

A Conservative campaign which is based primarily on her and her character might easily run out of steam by week three, and for this reason it might be wise for her to try and spread the load a bit. It is hard to see how she could do this by ringing the changes with other personalities. Very few of her cabinet colleagues are particularly fascinating or popular and, in any case, the media are bound to keep the spotlight turned relentlessly upon her whether she likes it or not. The only possibility of saving a little juice lies in trying to talk about issues.

But what issues are they to be? A score campaign against Labour policies is obviously fair game. There is plenty in the Labour manifesto to be scared about. But unless this is unlike almost every other British election since the war, the Opposition's policies, though



Baldwin and Wilson: the voters' choice gave a dusty answer to both the highly relevant, are not the core issue. People vote against governments more than they do against their opponents.

The real policy question is whether people feel that the tough approach has worked, and if so whether they think we have had enough negative prescription and nasty medicine for the moment, or whether they are in a mood for more. Beyond that, lies the matter of what another Conservative government could actually do. Is there really a second stage to the Thatcherite revolution that will sound sufficiently plausible and attractive to make the unemployment figures seem worthwhile?

When pressed on this point, Mrs Thatcher herself talks rather vaguely about expanding freedom and responsibility. Perhaps she is merely trying not to scoop her own manifesto. But from now on she will need to do a lot more than she has in the past to spell out why we should give her the unprecedented prize of a second full term. The resolute approach, of which she has made herself the embodiment, is a concept already a little shoddy by time and over-use. Unless it can be given a new meaning for a new mandate, the next three weeks will simply devolve it and its corporeal manifestation, to being just another name for business and pigheadedness.

The author is director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Philip Howard

Index linking our literary lions

Some laud the bright *Spectator* or the *New Stagers*. Others sing the praises of *Private Eye*. I have a friend in a top job at Shell who claims to have given up newspapers because he can get all he wants from the *Economist*: a damned ugly and dismal precedent, I tell him.

But, if confined to one magazine a week, the man or woman of sense picks *The Times Literary Supplement*. He or she may not find there the *Sturm und Drang* of yesterday's political sensation (to be forgotten tomorrow) or the juicy trivia of contemporary news. But sooner or later all the books, and therefore all the ideas, that matter are discussed in the *TLS*, usually intelligently, often wittily, sometimes mischievously, and nearly always by authorities in the particular tit-yard of scholarship.

The most interesting article of the week can usually be found in the *TLS*, so, for that matter, can the most stupid and boring. If it happens to be in a field that you are not interested in. But such ghastly things are not boring to structuralists, or sociologists, or the relevant specialists in the particular field. If only there were time to read it all, or at any rate to catch up on the priceless stuff that has flowed past in the weekly tide of print.

There is. A monumental index to the *TLS* from 1940-80 is being published in three volumes by Research Publications Ltd, to complete the volumes covering the years 1902-1939. So now you can look up puns in Milton, say, or women's lacrosse, or whatever happens to be your interest, and find everything that has been written about it in the *TLS*, by the choice and master experts of the century, listed by subject, title, personal names, editors, illustrators, and so on.

Mr W. S. has the most erudite, unsurprisingly, with 3,400 references. Shakespeare, though, should be living at this hour, to draw royalties and interview fees. There are more than a million references to the books published around the world so far this century. Look up, say, *Vampire* in the index, and you will find enough references to keep a *Fortune* magazine researcher happily rolling the microfilm or turning the pages of the bound volumes of the *TLS* for a week.

In 1974 John Cross, then editor of the *TLS*, decided to start naming the authors of his reviews, breaking the cloak of anonymity under which they had traditionally soldiered. It was a wonderfully controversial decision, and produced a characteristically magisterial and fulminating *TLS* correspondence in which the learned and the literati volleyed and thundered.

Item, "Sir. There is absolutely no danger that the end of authorial anonymity will produce more bland or careful articles. I've always found your signed letters column to be the most critical and murderously ad hominem."

The *TLS* has, of course, a secret index showing the authors of all its anonymous reviews from the beginning, and listing the intellectual and literary giants of the century. It has been decided, rightly but also, not to publish them in this public index, because the reviews were commissioned on the understanding that they would be published unsigned.

The exercise is magnificent, but yet another excuse for writer's cramp, the morbid condition that prevents writers from getting on with their books. Publisher: "How's Philip?" "Not bad, not bad, I just need about another 15 years in the *TLS* Index."



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MANIFESTO FOR MANOEUVRE

There are two ways of looking at the Alliance manifesto which was published yesterday. Its ostensible purpose is to indicate the policies that would be pursued by a government of Liberals and Social Democrats. From this standpoint the manifesto should earn reasonable marks, though it has some glaring weaknesses. It is inevitable, and indeed democratically healthy, that any party offering an alternative to the present Government should be more egalitarian and interventionist. The electorate ought to be offered such a choice.

So it is reasonable that the manifesto should promise more public spending than Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues believe to be justified - though still substantially less than the level proposed by Labour - and that its additional spending in the social field should be particularly directed towards the disadvantaged. This extra spending would be paid for partly by higher taxation - especially, but not solely, upon high income-earners - and partly by increased public borrowing.

That raises the spectre of inflation. The threat is recognized in the manifesto, which goes on to argue that it is essential to have an incomes policy. It is highly questionable whether an effective incomes policy could counter the inflationary pressures of more relaxed fiscal and monetary policies; but it is evident that they would not be countered at all by an ineffective incomes policy. There is not much to suggest that the incomes policy outlined in this manifesto would be effective. Even if a norm or range for pay settlements could be worked out with both sides of industry, enforcement would depend in practice upon the

voluntary agreement of the unions - and all experience has shown that this can be obtained only for short periods of time.

Both the Liberals and the Social Democrats are well known to attach more importance than either Labour or the Conservatives to constitutional reform. Within this field, the manifesto naturally gives pride of place to electoral reform. It repeats the commitment to a bill of rights. But it is more cautious on devolution than some of the earlier policy documents and statements from both parties might have led one to expect.

The only specific commitment is to set up a Scottish Parliament with the right to levy taxes. After the fiasco of the last devolution exercise, there is no indication that there is now any substantial demand for this in Scotland. But there would be even less justification for devolution to the English regions, and the manifesto wisely backs off anything more than providing a framework for devolution to the English regions "as demand develops". On the basis of present trends, that looks a pretty safe promise, and a fairly empty threat.

But hardly anyone can in fact believe that this manifesto will provide the policies for the next government. Its other, and more realistic, purpose is to provide a basis for negotiation with one or both of the other parties if the Alliance manages to hold the balance of power in the next Parliament. From this standpoint, the most interesting feature of the manifesto is the extent to which it would leave the Alliance a free hand after the election.

It would not be an absolutely free hand. The manifesto declares boldly: "The Alliance will not hesitate to use its strength in

the next Parliament to ensure the introduction of system which will strengthen the power of the voters". It is true that this does not state in quite so many words that the Alliance would not cooperate with any party that would not concede proportional representation. But it has got itself into a position where it would now look feeble if it made terms that did not include substantial progress in that direction. In this respect, it has boxed itself in more than is wise.

On defence it has not boxed itself in as much as it should. No matter how much one may disagree with its opposition to Trident, that is not a demonstrably irresponsible position to take. It is an opinion shared by quite a number of people whose belief in a strong defence capability is beyond question. But the line adopted in the manifesto on cruise missiles is positively flabby.

There is now no chance that the Geneva negotiations will lead to the elimination of intermediate range nuclear missiles from both eastern and western Europe. So whatever happens at Geneva it will be necessary to deploy some cruise missiles in this country. But the manifesto does not say whether it is for, or against it. Before deciding that, we are told, the Alliance would take account of the negotiating positions on all sides - which is neither an impressive demonstration of loyalty to NATO nor of how to apply pressure upon the Soviet Union.

But with this exception, the Alliance is wise to leave itself as much room for manoeuvre as it can in the next Parliament - and it has shown a sensible grasp of tactics in getting its manifesto out first. Its first task in this campaign is to attract attention.

Fairer dealing in air accidents

From Mr Harold Caplan
Sir, Your admirable leader ("Fly now, lose later", May 11) is a reminder that hard cases continue to provide the ingredients of bad law.

However, your suggestion that the British Government should consider imitating the methods of the US Government in relation to the Montreal Agreement is truly horrific. One may admire their motives and courage, but not their methods which were, and are, of doubtful legality.

The fault lies not in the structure of the much-maligned Warsaw Convention (as amended) but in the airlines' neglect of one of its consumer provisions and the lack of consumer groups with sufficient awareness of what could be done.

The original Convention allows the airline to raise the limit by special contract, thus contemplating the possible social need for regional variations. Over 20 years ago Lord Denning (in his legislative capacity) drew attention to this unused provision, but it was left to the US State Department in 1966 to force airlines to use this provision in the Montreal Agreement.

To its credit the UK Government had been most active in promoting an international consensus for higher limits by using the special contract BOAC and BEA were amongst the leaders. Now that IATA is relieved of the chore of inventing new fares, there is unused bureaucratic capacity available to continue the UK's missionary work on higher limits (if appropriate to a particular region, airline or passenger group).

This is not choice but adaptation to special needs, as foreseen in 1929. It may be unlikely that businessmen will deliberately choose only those airlines who offer the best terms to their widows, but there is no reason why passengers could not be offered a choice of higher limits for a supplementary charge: it would be one more permutation to add to the galaxy of promotional fares.

It would also become clearer that the market for personal insurance is still comparatively unexploited and can represent good value for money.

Yours etc,
HAROLD CAPLAN,
36 Eastcheap, EC3.
May 11.

From Mr A. J. Lucking
Sir, You have recommended air travellers to travel British, and so ensure that they are subject to a £71,000 limit of liability. A more universal precaution is to fasten your seat belt always. In aeroplanes, the smallest bumps occasionally turn into big ones.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
Flat 20,
17 Broad Court,
Bow Street, WC2.

From Sir Henry Marking
Sir, Calman's cartoon on the front page of yesterday's (May 4) Times referring to British Airways' achievement of returning to profitability - "damned un-British thing to do" - is amusing but unfair comment and does less than justice to what British airlines have achieved.

British European Airways made a profit in all except one of the 10 years to 1973, after which, following the formation of British Airways, separate accounts for European operations were not published; and in 1976 British Airways was, I estimate, the most profitable of all the world's major airlines.

British Caledonian also has an enviable profit record, and the achievement of many of the smaller British airline companies of staying alive and profitable certainly deserves recognition.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY MARKING,
Streathall Hall,
Nr Saffron Walden, Essex.
May 5.

In foreign parts
From Mr M. P. Cowie
Sir, I was most interested to read Mr Christopher Thomas's account (May 9) of the Oxford-Cambridge boat race on the East River of New York.

However it is not true to state that this is the first time crews from these universities have battled in foreign waters. Both the 1981 blues crews were invited to visit Japan after the race, and the 1982 blues rowed against each other on the Sumida River in Tokyo, on April 26 as part of the celebrations to mark the fiftieth race between Waseda and Keio Universities. For the record, the Dark Blues came home three and a half lengths in front.

The tour as a whole was an enormous success, with considerable good will generated between tourists and hosts. Especially notable, despite the great linguistic and cultural differences between the universities, was the camaraderie and enthusiastic rivalry between the oarsmen involved, culminating in the Light Blues' clean sweep of the various social competitions organized.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL COWIE,
40A Battersea Rise, SW11.
May 9th.

From Mr John Davies
Sir, I would be the first, or indeed the last, person to point out that Oxford and Cambridge have rowed the Boat Race in foreign lands before this weekend.

I watched the contest on the river Dordogne at Libourne about seven years ago. On that occasion Cambridge lost not only the race but also bow, finishing with only seven oars, a tribute perhaps to the hospitality of the Libournais since the race was rowed after lunch. The following year I believe that another contest took place on the Seine.

Yours truly,
JOHN DAVIES,
85 Harcourt Drive, SW10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election seen from the grass roots

From Mrs Marilyn Mihill
Sir, The Labour Opposition's blockage of the clause in the Finance Bill increasing the limit for mortgage tax relief from £25,000 to £30,000 is surely a somewhat misguided start to the party's election campaign.

An ever-growing percentage of the population - now have mortgages over £25,000. Here in Leytonstone, East London, one of the cheapest parts of London in which to buy property, a one-bedroom flat will set you back £20,000-plus and a small terraced house anything from £25,000 to £32,000.

It is not surprising that many ordinary young couples have to borrow more than £25,000 to secure a home for their future families; but it is surprising that the Labour Party would put at risk valuable potential votes over what is, in terms of revenue to the Government, very small beer.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. MIHILL,
135 Twickenham Road,
Leytonstone, E11.
May 10.

From Professor R. L. Plackett
Sir, Your record (May 9) a poll by MORI which gives the Conservatives 45 per cent, Labour 34 per cent and the Alliance 20 per cent also a National Opinion Poll in which these percentages are 47, 34 and 18 respectively. The total is 99 per cent for each poll, which suggests a degree of commitment seldom seen outside the socialist countries. All those not supporting the three main political parties, and especially those who don't know, are presumably taken out before the percentages are calculated.

Information presented in this way is misleading and should be replaced by percentages of all those questioned.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. PLACKETT,
Department of Statistics,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 10.

From Mr Anthony Field
Sir, Now the election date has been announced it is surely time to ban all public opinion polls on party political issues until after the election.

No doubt everyone can think of a great many valid reasons for voting in a particular way; there is certainly one reason which is not acceptable and that is how other people are supposed to be going to vote.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2.
May 9.

From Mr Gavan L. Burn
Sir, Have we seen the end of quinquennial parliaments? No one, least of all Mrs Thatcher, has suggested why speculation is better

Prison overcrowding

From Mr Antony Fletcher
Sir, The Home Secretary has certainly tried hard to deal with the gross overcrowding of our prisons; his willingness to encourage wide public debate of this grievous problem is especially refreshing.

But there is one surprising omission, one rather obvious palliative which seldom gets discussed: open prisons. If these were used more, and more of them provided, overcrowding in the closed prisons could be eased substantially.

In 1978, the House of Commons Expenditure Committee recommended that the use of open prisons should be increased; in 1979 the Working Party on Open Prisons (Home Office) suggested "a continuous combing" of closed prisons for those suitable for open conditions; in 1981, the May committee made helpful proposals concerning the local agreements which determine who may be sent to an open prison; in 1981, the Home Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons recommended greater use of open prisons, and - also in 1981 - the Home Office Working Party on Categorisation issued their report.

This described, with admirable frankness, the many weaknesses in current practice, which inhibit transfer to open conditions. The report made detailed proposals

Where credit's due

From Mr Stephen Lamb
Sir, Of the two alterations to the layout of the cricket scorecard suggested by Mr Mike Faber (April 30) the second appears to be entirely acceptable. A catch completed by a substitute fielder does him as much credit, when recorded, as it would have done to any of his fielding colleagues, and in some scorecards Mr Faber's suggestion is implemented: a sub (Smith), for example, if one were to implement his first suggestion that the scorecard should record the name of the fielder should be responsible for a run out, then one or two fielders are responsible for the same dismissal, or more often when the batsmen themselves are.

Take the unfortunate run out of Derek Randall on his home ground in the Ashes series of 1977. None of the fielders could strictly be regarded as responsible for this dismissal, still less Randall himself; the catalyst was his own batting partner! One hesitates to name names....

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN LAMB,
38a Elizabeth Street, SW1,
April 30.

The EEC Budget

From Mr Roger Broad
Sir, The European Commission has not proposed that the European Parliament be empowered to increase Community budgetary resources "at will", as your Saturday leader (of May 7) asserted. The Commission's proposal is that any

increase in the VAT element of the Community resources (above a 1.4 per cent rate) should require the unanimous agreement of the Council of Ministers and the agreement of the Parliament by a majority of at least three fifths of its total membership.

So neither the Council nor the Parliament would have the sole power of decision. This is in conformity with present constitutional position, whereby these two institutions jointly constitute the budgetary authority when voting the annual budget of the European Community.

This itself reflects the fact that since the Community's "own resources" were made independent of annual votes by the national parliaments, the European Parliament has been the only elected body directly involved in budgetary decision-making.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BROAD,
European Parliament, Information Office,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

Eating guinea pigs

Mr Christopher A. Key
Sir, I was interested to note the letter printed on May 10 from Lady James of Rushmore concerning the consumption of guinea pigs. I have recently discovered that these creatures roam wild on Bodmin Moor and do provide a far easier source of food for my dog than rabbits which can run faster.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER KEY,
Rose Cottage, Trevernant,
Tintagel, Cornwall.

Responsibility and solvent sniffing

From the Headmaster of The Knights Templar School

Sir, I disagree with the Headmaster of Friern Barnet Grammar School, who suggested (May 11) that the makers of glue and other useful household articles should be taxed to pay for the abuse of their products by stupid youths. That kind of liberal evasion is as foolish as making the manufacturers of matches pay for the damage of arsonists.

While it is prudent for shopkeepers to be cautious in selling notable "glue-sniffing" compounds to juveniles, those shopkeepers are not responsible, except for that proper caution.

Rather it is the responsibility of children to exercise self-discipline; it is the responsibility of parents and teachers to discipline their children; and perhaps the law should be strengthened in its responsibility to discipline offenders and protect the innocent.

Children always announce their intentions, however obliquely, and piers can be recognised whatever their guise.

In this school we do not have lessons teaching children that they should not set fire to themselves or to other people's property with matches; but by everything we do or do not do, by everything we applaud or condemn, by every manner or care we show, we demonstrate our judgment it is sufficient.

I am yours sincerely,
VINCENT CRELLIN,
Headmaster,
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Crispin Kelly

Sir, Mr Pearman, a headmaster, writes (May 11) that he wants "a public campaign against commercial irresponsibility in solvent manufacture", to crack down on solvent abuse.

Surely the irresponsibility lies not with the manufacturers, sufficiently haunted with the spectre of insolvency, but with the abusers, together with their parents and guardians.

If a craze for eating glass was to develop, would Mr Pearman campaign against glass manufacturers? Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN KELLY,
17 Harbledown Road, SW6.

Ahmed imprisonment

From Mr John Pilger and others

Sir, We read with surprise and sorrow about the conviction, on abuse of power charges, and sentencing to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment of the former deputy Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Moudud Ahmed, by a martial law tribunal in Dhaka (The Times, March 17).

During Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971 it was Mr Ahmed's own personal courage and conviction which played a pre-eminent role in bringing to the attention of the world press the Bangladesh case for freedom and it was the very understanding and propagation of this case which played a significant role in helping Bangladesh to win a significant degree of world support in its eventually successful liberation war.

After independence Mr Ahmed's own personal qualities and political skills led him to play a major role in rebuilding the country and helping it to build up its institutions. It is sad indeed that a man who has contributed so much already to his country should now not be able to play a part in helping to build his nation's future because he has, apparently, fallen out of favour with the present military regime in Bangladesh.

We call on the Government of Bangladesh to release this eminent prisoner of conscience and upon all friends of Bangladesh in this country to support our plea.

Yours etc,
JOHN PILGER,
TONY CLIFTON,
JOHN MACDONALD,
ALEX DUFFY,
14 Speed House,
The Barbican, EC2.
May 5.

Child thieves abroad

From Mrs Joyce Duncan

Sir, I was pleased to read J. F. Rutter's letter on the child thieves in Paris (April 30). One such gang did this surrounding, paving and jostling to me as I crossed the busy rue de Rivoli several weeks ago.

I appealed to a nearby police, grumpy-looking, dark-suited man in his twenties, who signalled to the teenagers and they quickly dispersed.

I was delighted to have held on to my handbag intact. But on arriving at my son's temporary Paris flat, I realised I had been stripped of my jewelry.

My family thought my Fagin and child gang story a bit far-fetched so I am pleased to see this confirmation and wish to warn other visitors to central Paris - and not necessarily all that elderly!

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE DUNCAN,
1A Oswald Road,
Edinburgh.

Flight of fancy

From Mr M. R. Bond

Sir, The BBC may have an Unnatural History Unit as a complement to your own Unnatural London Geography Unit. In your article (May 2) on the bicentenary of John Gilpin you have him going from Tottenham to Edmonton via Dalston!

This is a slur on the sense of direction of the horse, which should be apologised for forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. BOND,
5 Church Road,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

BEYOND THE STOCKADE

The four highly significant by-elections that have just taken place in the Transvaal, the heartland of Afrikanerdom at the end of the voortrekkers' trail, have not gone well for Prime Minister P. W. Botha. But they could have gone worse.

The main point is not that for the first time the ruling Nationalist Party has lost an election to an opponent further to the right. More importantly, it is the first time since Dr Malan took power in 1948 that the Afrikaner monolith - historically never, in fact, as solid as is often assumed - is seen to be cracked almost down the middle. Because the most far-right party stood down, one of the recent by-elections was the first clear test of Afrikaner opinion since the Conservative Party broke away from Mr Botha over a year ago.

Mr Botha's reforms being piloted through parliament are in themselves tame, but they do at least mark a major and healthy psychological departure, with Coloureds and South Africans of Indian origin soon to be represented in the central parliament, though in separate chambers. The chief massive objection to that blacks are being left out - dumped, politically and often - literally, in the utterly inadequate "homelands".

There are other serious shortcomings which, even in the context of Afrikaner fear and anguish, should have been avoided: there is almost no scope under the new plan for legislative

cooperation or parliamentary manoeuvring between liberal whites, Coloureds and Indians. When "general" issues are discussed - those reckoned to affect all the races equally - legislative power will in the end belong to the white ruling party. And if there is stalemate on any "general" issue, the problem will be passed along to the very powerful executive president, who, sometime next year, will probably be Mr P. W. Botha himself.

The system, indeed, will become predominantly presidential. Optimistic verities foresee a "De Gaulle option" being followed. The President, in this view, will wrench a reluctant *volk* in a direction it does not especially fancy but will allow itself to be squeezed into a conviction that "P.W." knows best. Afrikaners, paradoxically, are intensely democratic among themselves; under the new system they will be permitted less of a say. But that, paradoxically too, could lead to a greater though very gradual drift towards democratic participation by the other races.

Alas, there is no certainty that President Botha will have the guts to drive towards real reform. The greatest danger of the recent results is that he may timorously believe that he still holds enough of the Afrikaner vote both to keep his *volk* united and simultaneously move towards tentative reform. That, he must now recognize, is quite impossible. He should accept

that white politics is no longer Afrikaner politics. He will have to move towards the centre and accept the challenge of winning over the English-speaking voter, who is no multi-racial angel but more pragmatically amenable to change.

It is important to differentiate between Mr Botha's intentions and the unintended potential of the constitutional changes. One may welcome the latter while in no way endorsing the former. Mr Botha may believe he can streamline apartheid without abolishing it, and retain exclusive white control at the centre while allowing a measure of black and brown democracy at the edges. It is perhaps ironical that in that respect he is probably wrong and Dr Treurnicht probably right. On its own bizarre terms, apartheid is so logical a construction that when one part falls away it is indeed unlikely that the centre will hold.

Mr Botha may not yet accept or desire that his reforms could create a momentum leading to more radical changes much faster than he could ever imagine. He may now become paralysed in funk. The only hope is that his sparse appetite for reform may, once whetted, begin to grow; and that - if his rule is to be presidential - he will see that the only chance for the survival of the *volk* and for the future of South Africa as a whole lies in the hands of a bold president who steps out of the Afrikaner laager.

MR SPEAKER GOES HOME

It is lost in the mists of time how the House of Commons managed before it had a Speaker to take it in hand as Mr George Thomas has taken it in hand during a seven-year reign that ends today. The first member to bear the title, Sir Thomas Hungerford, was elected in 1376, a century after Parliament had emerged in recognizable form as something potentially more formidable than a royal council. Every talking-shop needs a chairman, and the formal emergence of a chairman of the Commons marked a crucial step in the evolution of its identity, and indeed that of these islands.

It is often asserted that the queue is an institution close to the heart of the British temperament: the chairman is quite as much so. Indeed, he (or she) is virtually a personification of the spirit of the queue - a controlling force that gains its only authority from the common interest of the controlled in having their claims attended to in an orderly and equitable way. Wherever two or three are gathered together up and down the country to organize a fete or a protest march or an embezzlement, their first instinct is to elect a chairman. The deep roots of that instinct are a tribute to Hungerford and his successors down to Mr Speaker Thomas himself.

Not that Mr Thomas was what one might call an obvious Speaker - not one in the tradition of Arthur Onslow, who had two Speakers in the family already and was so solicitous to avoid controversy that he is only recorded to have opened his mouth three times in the Commons before being elected to the chair by unanimous vote in 1728, while still a lad in his thirties: he then sat tight in it for no less than 35 years. As an ordinary MP George Thomas showed a decided gusto for the cut and thrust, and indeed the sheer knockabout, of party politics. He effected the transition with grace, and departs fully assured of the respect and affection of the House which he has firmly and humorously kept in check for what is by modern standards a lengthy tenure.

Respect and affection are the usual thing, and it is not far short of obligatory to invoke them at a moment like this. The relationship naturally invokes them, on both sides - the clashes, the challenges, the ultimate trust. A Speaker has to be sage, father figure, confessor, an embodiment of archetypes. (It was the perpetual Onslow who declared at the last: "The being within these walls has ever been the chief pleasure of my life.") Discriminations are academic,

but it is the case that Mr Thomas has survived the many stresses of his office with more resilience than most of his recent predecessors, and turned aside wrath and hectoring more disarmingly.

He is departing at the end of a Parliament, because most MPs preferred to avoid the search for a successor when no obvious candidate presented himself. There is a convention that a Speaker should step down in mid-term, so that his successor may be elected by a House that knows him well, and a House still initially finding its feet should be under the control of a Speaker who has already found his. The election of a successor (and the consequent partial disenfranchisement of some unsuspecting constituency) will raise again the old cry that a national seat should be created for him and a by-election held. But what is sauce for the Speaker would also be sauce for his deputies, and a new category of MP would come into being, set apart from their fellows by their rootless state. It is the fact that the Speaker is an MP among MPs, chosen by them but not cut off from them, that ultimately gives him the assurance that his silvery Chapel voice will be heard when he cries: "Order, order!"

THE ARTS

Cinema: Geoff Brown in London and David Robinson (below) in Cannes

Magical scrutiny of European history

Confidence (15)
Gate Notting Hill

Passion (18)
Camden Plaza

Handgun (18)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Bad Boys (18)
Classics Haymarket, Oxford Street

Friday the 13th Part III (18)
Plaza 2

What a topsy-turvy world: István Szabó's spellbinding *Confidence* takes three years to reach a public cinema in Britain, while dross streaks out of Hollywood before you can say knife. In the meantime, Szabó's later film *Mephisto* has earned the Hungarian director a firm reputation as an intelligent scrutineer of European history, a magician with actors and an economical conjurer of period atmosphere. *Confidence* displays all these traits, though the film's scale is smaller. Instead of an actor's dubious, crowded journey through the Third Reich years, Szabó concentrates on two Hungarian fugitives from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War, thrashing out their relationships in the confines of a claustrophobic house. The focus is sharp and deep; we watch transfixed and enthralled. Another title for *Confidence* might be "Suspicion", for these are the film's two opposing forces. Kata, torn in knots by the disappearance of her child and husband (a Resistance

member), is hidden away with an experienced, hard-bitten fugitive, János. The two pose as man and wife, though emotional and social contacts are shrouded in dark, pervading suspicions. "Consider everything you say from an informer's point of view", János advises. Personal passions and conversations are thus pared to the bone; every person is viewed with distrust. Szabó and his cameraman Lajos Kohai depict this frightened world with the undemonstrative skills we easily take for granted. The period trappings lie lightly and naturally over the Budapest streets and buildings; the colour palette of somber greys and blues suggests drabness but avoids monotony. The acting, however, can hardly pass unnoticed: Ildikó Bánsági's vibrant yet delicate performance as Kata is particularly impressive.

As we watch Kata and János painfully shuffling towards intimacy, it becomes clear that Szabó's sad story relates not just to two individuals during the autumn of 1944. Szabó himself has observed how the secretive habits generated under Nazi dominance continued into postwar Hungary; and, while it would be misleading to view *Confidence* as a direct allegory, the film's situations and emotions can be easily transposed on to the wider canvas of Eastern Europe, nipped by the Cold War. "It's not that I don't trust the people," János says, "I don't trust the times." Trust, *The Times*, at any rate: *Confidence* is masterly and deeply rewarding.

The week's other major film could not be more different in style. Where Szabó blends the components of cinema to form a compact, resonant narrative, Jean-Luc Godard, in *Passion*, deliberately leaves the components disconnected. Sound and image battle for attention; dialogue is critically synchronized, peppered with coughs and sniggers. The four main characters - a sacked factory worker, the factory boss, his hotel-owning wife and a Polish film director



János (Péter Andorai) tests the resolution of Kata (Ildikó Bánsági) in *Confidence*

- rub against each other in wintry Swiss settings without ever forming a coherent plot-line. The characters' faces, at least, are encouragingly familiar: they are played, respectively, by Isabelle Huppert, Michel Piccoli, Hanna Schygulla and Jerzy Radziwiłowicz (from Wajda's *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*). But the starry cast remains Godard's only major concession to the taste of his public (and financial backers). This is a film to wrestle with.

As with all of life's problems, *Passion* is best tackled a step at a time. Raoul Coutard's photography won a deserved award at the Cannes Festival last year; the images startle from the very first shot of a vapour trail piercing a blue, cloud-flecked sky. The film studio scenes are especially extraordinary, for the film in production is composed of *tableaux vivants* drawn from paintings by El Greco, Goya and others. Delacroix's *Entry of the Crusaders into Constantinople* inspires the strangest sight: imposing figures on horseback clip-clopping round a maze of exotic miniature buildings. Classical paintings are complemented by the soundtrack's classical music (Mozart, Beethoven, Faure), which is further complemented by ugly natural

sounds - car engines, car booters. Godard's declared objective was to make a "democratic" film, with no hierarchy of elements; the rough thus finds equal space with the smooth. For the spectator wriggling with irritation the temptation might be to moan, in consort with the harassed fictional producer, "I want a story!" But that would require a different film, not by Godard. He gives us preoccupations, if never a plot: work and love, art and reality, art and politics, and the myriad connections between them. He also offers the varied fruits of a quirky mind letting rip. At best Godard's indulgence produces unique visual fireworks; at worst he provides intellectual obfuscation. The maddening *Passion* contains equal amounts of both.

The ICA's presentation of Roberto Rossellini's television film *The Rise to Power of Louis XIV* demands more space than is available; next week must suffice. Among other offerings, Handgun stands out for its curious mixture of the fresh and the jaded; the film is written, produced and directed by Ken Loach's old partner Tony Garnett, now at work in America. Garnett fills out the background with sharp details of Texas braggadocio, and secures natural, apt performances

from both his leads (Karen Young as an innocent schoolteacher and Clayton Day as the gun-loving male who rapes her). Yet all these virtues are squandered on a plot that steadily trades its crusading spirit for the conventional fantasies of the vigilante thriller.

In the prison drama *Bad Boys* jaded elements dominate, though there remains a curious fascination in watching foul language (and fouler actions) grafted on to a plot that could have served a young James Cagney. Sean Penn occasionally looks touchingly soulful as the bad boy gaining self-respect inside a "juvenile correctional facility", but the director Rick Rosenthal uses his Chicago locations with humdrum lack of subtlety; where Garnett uses diplomatic fades in his rape scene, Rosenthal shifts his camera to the elevated railway rattling by, showering down picturesque sparks.

Youth also dominates in Friday the 13th Part III, in which a fresh crop of eight teenagers enjoy a weekend of mayhem at the notorious Crystal Lake; only the heroine survives. One can only fear for their cinematic education: no one would guess from this dismal piece that horror films can frighten with genuine wit and style.

Theatre The power to shock

A Patriot for Me
Chichester

"It's knowing the value of other men. And cherishing it." An appreciative comment on army standards from the commandant of the 7th Galician Infantry Regiment, circa 1890. If he saw what we see presently - his officers dressed as medieval ladies or Lord Nelson, dancing with and renting café waiters in the guise of shepherdesses, Mozart soubrettes or a Lady Godiva in gold briefs - he would know how precisely true it was.

Judging by protests in the theatre's Trust that nearly got this revival cancelled, John Osborne's masterpiece still has the power to shock 18 years after the Lord Chamberlain's notorious refusal to licence any of its homosexual themes forced the Royal Court to mount it as a club production. But, directed here with Ronald Eyre's seriousness and style, I suspect the good people of Chichester will largely accept it as a chronicle play of great richness and depth whose famous drag scene is more entertaining than offensive.

Alan Bates inherits the Maximilian Schell part of Redl, rising from an unpromising background to an elite position in counter-espionage under increasing surveillance from his Russian opposite numbers. His debut as known to a penny, and his uncomfortable affair with his agent, Countess Delyanoff (Sheila Gish is chalked up), but his final recognition of his homosexuality, and absorption into a

subculture offering physical and social peril along with a feast of promiscuity, is a gift they receive with open arms. Blackmail persuades him to join them, and discovery of it to the gentleman's option - the provided revolver in the solitary room.

It all takes well to Chichester's epic thrust stage, though pace cannot always be sustained and audibility is only good head-on. Carl Toms fills a room with gilt *belle-époque* furniture or empties it for an interrogation scene or forest clearing, while gauze screens onstage carry slide-projections or the silhouettes of the Baron von Epp's drag revellers in a witty echo of *Amadeus*.

Though Alan Bates's performance still has room to grow - the early stages could stand more ironic detail, for the play takes an hour-and-a-half to land him in bed with his first young man - he makes something both charming and chilling out of the young lieutenant's alacrity with all the expected answers. And his disintegration into a cynical success, purchasing, displaying and losing his Ganyemedes, makes your flesh creep.

Taking one of those boys largely for spite, Miss Gish shocks you with raw feeling as the play gradually denies it to the other characters; and, protected by a total lack of illusion as well as a four-string pearl choker on top of diamonds, Nigel Stock's queenly steely side to all those Victorian gentlemen he always played so impeccably.

Anthony Masters

Wintry poetry

Other Worlds
Royal Court

Listeners to *Desert Island Discs* will recently have picked up the story of a monkey, the sole survivor of a Napoleonic shipwreck, washed up on the English coast where the inhabitants promptly hanged it, mistaking it for a Frenchman.

This gruesome footnote to our beguiling rural history furnishes Robert Holman with the central episode in his chronicle of North Yorkshire in the late 1700s. The Napoleonic wars loom in the background, together with the iniquities of land enclosure, savage court sentences and the feared incursion of the Methodists. But Mr Holman builds his piece from sharp little foreground atrocities, such as the fate of the monkey, with which these great events impress themselves on the lives of the peasantry.

As a piece of story-telling, *Other Worlds* concerns the feud between the farmers of Fylingthorpe and the dispossessed fishermen of Robin Hood's Bay. Spanning 20 years, it incorporates a frustrated Romeo and Juliet fable for a fisherman, Joe, and a farm girl, Emma, who dies in childbirth; and achieves a partial resolution when Joe - supposedly slain by the enraged farmer - reappears years later to found a village school in partnership with the farmer's widow.

Adopting the now unusual three-act form, Mr Holman sandwiches the courtship drama between two acts set 30 years later at the time of the shipwreck. You thus see the consequences of the earlier events before discovering why the farmer's son is such a booby, why the fishing village is seen as enemy territory and why the widow takes a broom and thrashes a boy she finds lurking in her kitchen. The farming community remains at the top

of whatever pecking order this impoverished community has to show; but it is in decline.

In the second act, we see Joe trying to escape to the city with Emma and then confronting the farmer, whose murderous response triggers off an attack by the starving fishermen in a hopeless attempt to regain their land. Looping back to the time of the shipwreck, we find the outcast boy and the outcast monkey sharing a cage and duly hanged, before the villagers discover the wreck was a British troopship with some of their own boys on board.

Mr Holman leaves quite a string of unanswered questions. Why did the looters not recognize the ship's nationality? Why was the farmer not arrested for murder? Or, as Joe did secretly survive, how did it take him so long to learn of Emma's death? These questions would not loom so large if there were more urgency or spirit in the narrative.

Dour is an overworked label for Yorkshire manners, but it applies irresistibly to Mr Holman's stoical, granite-faced characters. His style is thoroughly consistent, and sometimes it rises to a vein of wintry poetry - as in the scene where the bereaved Emma (Juliet Stevenson) meets a benevolent fairground conjurer (Peter O'Farrell) whom she mistakes for a boggar.

More often, though, you get the impression that the dialogue is intended to convey powerful emotions in reserve, which fail to penetrate the stonily impacted surface.

John Byrne contributes a series of magnificently desolate designs, and Richard Wilson's production adheres strictly to the measured, disciplined writing, achieving some extraordinary dividends in Paul Copley's double performance as Joe and Jim Broadbent as the brutal farmer and his buffoonish son.

Irving Wardle

Bournemouth SO/
Segal
Festival Hall

When Hans von Bülow heard Mahler play through the first movement of his Second Symphony on the piano, he is supposed to have gone into a state of nervous shock and exclaimed that it made Wagner's *Tristan* sound like a Haydn symphony. Something of that shattering effect of newness, of reckless adventure, must be recaptured in a performance of Mahler 2 even today, when its massive sounds seem to be almost as frequently heard as those of Beethoven's Choral Symphony.

It was a bold, admirable notion of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to highlight its visit to London this week with the symphony, and for it the orchestra joined forces with the Bournemouth Sinfonia

Concert

netta and a choral group - presumably the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, although they were not credited in the programme. And while there was much to admire in the account, above all the warmth and commitment of the choral singing and the solid direction of Uri Segal, there was too much which stubbornly prevented it from taking flight.

The opening movements had a strong profile: the rhythms of the first were clearly articulated, and the lifting accents of the second were nicely touched in with *glissandi*. But thereafter the flaws began to obtrude: an odd missing bar from the first flute and a hiccupy oboe solo in the third movement, an out-of-tune violin solo and poor trombone chording and tuning.

These things must happen in many performances, and if the sweep of the whole is convincing one tends to forget them. But here one only began to notice how sparingly Mahler's

detailed markings were being followed, how rarely the little swellings and shadings which give the phrases life were observed. The outbursts of the finale were rumbustious rather than tense in Mr Segal's hands and the violins missed much of the subtlety of their lines, for example around Figure 24, which sounded far too plain. Although many sections sounded well rehearsed and well blended, there was a wildness missing in their realization which disappointed.

Alfreda Hodgson was serene and simple in the contralto solos, while the soprano, Sheila Armstrong, emerged only briefly with notes that scarcely had the required luminosity. In the final pages, Mahler's spirit was caught in spite of some acid wind chording, but we were left with a feeling of noble aspiration rather than attainment.

Nicholas Kenyon

The story is set in a Japanese POW camp in Indonesia in 1942, but Oshima says that he was influenced more by Jean Renoir's *La Grande Illusion* than by *Bridge on the River Kwai*. The conflict is between the codes and character - in their different ways as brutally inflexible - of Japanese and British, with the added human complication that the young Japanese commandant conceives a powerful sexual attraction to the English officer played by David Bowie. There are problems with both structure and casting (the Australian actor Jack Thompson is not believable as an English blimp) that blur the British side of things; but Oshima's humanism and narrative skills surmount most of the handicaps.

Beneath the surface kindness and humour of *Caminamanina* may be sensed a growing disillusion in the maker of *The Tree of the Wooden Clogs*. The film begins with peasants preparing a mystery play; then

Television

Elephantine aspirations

Alexander Korda's ambition was to outdo Hollywood. Having made half a million pounds and a star out of Charles Laughton for \$60,000 with *Henry VIII* in 1933, he set out to do it in 165 acres at Denham. Prudential Life Assurance had a non-starting role as backers.

Korda strung his studios along the River Colne, requiring technicians to rush around on bicycles, but a sufficient energy remained to crown his early efforts. His sets were as lavish as any. Gardeners would work 100 hours a week, and in Korda at Denham on BBC2 last night, one recalled going in at 9 am and arriving home 53 hours later.

Employees enthusiastically followed their leader. When they struck once, demurring at the employment of a non-union

plasterer, Korda strode down to tell them it was back now or never. It was now.

He flew Union Jacks above the studios but his crew and cast were international. Fellow Hungarians formed his close circle. When he made *Knight Without Armour* in 1937, he had a Belgian director, Hungarian scriptwriters, a German star (Marlene Dietrich), an English leading man (Robert Donat) and American technicians. Graham Greene approved of the result. "Beautifully directed," he wrote; "a neat water-tight epic."

Korda employed the American documentary pioneer Robert Flaherty to make *Elephant Boy*, Flaherty, who also did things his way, went to India and seemed to have vanished. Cables eventually elicited the information that he was seeking

an elephant, then a boy. Finally, Denham received a cable saying that shooting was indefinitely delayed because the elephant had trampled on the boy. It never did do to try to upstage animals.

Korda's brother Zoltan completed the film and the boy, Sabu, became a star. But Korda over-reached himself and the City, impatient, sent in a cost-cutter. The result was disaster. When the rushes of the last film were being shown, Korda turned to the trimmer and said: "Now you have your way. There are no films being made and no money being wasted." Korda became a knight without studios.

Britain in the Thirties is a good series but too short, a rare complaint. Denham survivors popped up and down like shooting-gallery targets as the producer Christopher Cook packed it in. But it was good stuff.

Dennis Hackett

Anne Evans, WNO's chosen Brünnhilde, tries out the role at the Festival Hall on Sunday. Interview by John Higgins

Searching for truth

On Sunday Anne Evans begins at the end. She sings the closing scene of *Götterdämmerung* with the Philharmonia at the Festival Hall in an all-Wagner programme. This will be the first time she has tackled Brünnhilde's music in public, but she is the Welsh National Opera's choice for that role, both in *Walküre* and *Götterdämmerung*, in the company's *Ring* which starts next season. Sunday will be a substantial trailer to what Cardiff can expect next year.

The Philharmonia's conductor on this occasion will be Lovro von Matačić, the 84-year-old Yugoslav who was responsible for a number of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's early records.

Anne Evans first worked with him at the Rome Opera as Chrysothemis in Richard Strauss's *Elektra* and it was success there that laid the foundation stone for Sunday's concert.

She arrived in Rome to start on the day specified in the contract whereas most of the rest of the cast turned up rather later, Italian-fashion, when it suited them. So she found herself in rehearsals which were virtually solo tutorials.

Although Anne Evans has no company affiliation at the moment her allegiances are very much to the WNO. It is not merely a matter of parentage: she was brought up in a London Welsh family who ran a dairy about a mile north of the present Times offices and she tends to refer to herself as "Mary from the Dairy". In Cardiff she seems to have found the roles which suit her, basically those of the German dramatic repertoire: Fidelio, Chrysothemis, the Kaiserin, *From ohne Schien*. During her spell with the English National Opera she sang everything from Pamina to Nedda in search of her true *Fach*.

"Lots of singers take quite a long time to discover what they are likely to do best. I must have sung almost 20 different roles while I was at the Coliseum. There was no co-



ercion. They simply asked whether I would like to tackle a part and I usually agreed. Of course there are some operas I would not care to return to: Act 1 of *La traviata* does not well for me and *Ilia in Idomeneo* wasn't right either. Probably it wasn't until I sang *Elsa in Lohengrin* that I felt I found myself. But then look how many of us begin by studying as mezzos and end up sopranos."

Miss Evans early on in her career won both the soprano and mezzo prizes at an Elstedford and got a public wiggling from one of the judges for entering herself in both categories.

"The double attractions of the WNO are ample rehearsal time and the chance of working with producers who have provocative ideas. If I had known in advance how Harry

"What if I can't act?" I asked. "Don't worry, dear," came back the reply, "you'll find your way around."

Kupfer was going to stage *Elektra* I would probably have turned down Chrysothemis. But as the rehearsals moved on I became putty in his hands. And at the end of the run I felt I had suddenly discovered theatre despite the fact that I had been singing for a number of years. Kupfer goes first for the actor and he expects everyone to be an actor-singer. It was a long step from my days at the RCM when it was first suggested that I should train for opera. "What if I can't act?" I asked. "Don't worry, dear," came back the reply, "you'll find your way around."

Anne Evans found her way around on her first stop after college thanks to Herbert Graf and the Geneva Opera, where many of the young students were put on stage almost immediately as Rhinemaidens, Norms and Valkyries. This summer the wheel will revolve full-circle when Anne Evans finds herself again as a Norm and a Valkyrie when she goes to Bayreuth for the first time in the Hall/Solo Ring. Orlinde and the Third Norm are the assigned parts, a traditional Bayreuth coupling. Those with large memory-banks may recall that both Flaggstad and Nilsson made their debuts there in this pair of roles. Miss Evans reckons that it will be a very good opportunity to watch other Brünnhildes coming to terms with Wagner.



We will spend May/June at the
London Coliseum

presenting
Romeo and Juliet
The Seasons/Sphinx/Petrouchka
Cinderella
Swan Lake
Dances from Napoli
Four Last Songs/Eludes
Cinderella

London Festival Ballet
Spent Easter in Paris

France Soir, Le Monde, LE FIGARO, Quotidien

Une leçon de style
Charme britannique

Tutu, où es-tu? An Châtelet

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"Fun" D. Exp.

Exciting, Passionate Theatre F. Times

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Covent Garden 01-379 6545

MARKET REPORT by Andrew Cornelius

Broker backs motors

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, May 8. Dealings end, May 20. Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

Stockbroker firm Savory Mill selects motor stocks in the pre-election market as being the best investment bet within the engineering industry in a circular which goes to clients today. The brokers are recommending as buys: AE, at 33p; BBA Group, at 37p; British Car Auctions, at 183p; and Lex Service, which yesterday reported that first quarter pretax profits are running more than 50 per cent higher than for the same period last year. Lex shares were up by 13p to 288p on the news.

Mechanical engineering stocks are mostly fully-valued, Savory say, unless the Labour Party wins the election. In that event the short-term outlook will brighten considerably as companies benefit from orders to supply equipment for the capital projects proposed by the Labour leaders.

Elsewhere, Savory suggest that Bestobell shares are a sell, as the market discounts the possibility of a bid by BTR, which holds 24 per cent of the company's equity. Grim news on present trading from the Bestobell board at the company's annual meeting helped to

push down the shares by 4p to 360p yesterday.

Trading in the rest of the market was dull with the FT Index largely unmoved early on, but later falling four points to close at 663.6. Gilt was

Swedish multinational Alfa-Laval raised £23m yesterday by placing 800,000 shares with City institutions. The shares were placed at 341 (£29), per share but carry a bonus issue at the end of this month which values the shares at 345 (£38.80). The shares were trading at 346 (£40) in Stockholm yesterday.

also largely unmoved on the day after closing a quarter at 81.04 down 0.09.

Most of the activity came from company statements and bid news. Scottish Television gave a warning to shareholders that this year will be demanding

for shareholders largely because the company will have to fund an extra £6.8m to fund Channel 4. The shares remained unchanged on the news at 99p.

However, at Rank Organisation, the film and copiers group, the shares were up by 2p to 180p on bullish news from the head of the film division about trading prospects.

Shares of Smith & Nephew, which makes Elastoplast and Nivea cream, were also up by 2p to 195p after Mr Kenneth Kemp, the chairman, indicated that the first quarter profits rise of 22 per cent should continue for the rest of the year.

However, British Aerospace shares remained unchanged at 200p after an announcement that the company has won £5m of orders for its Jetstream commuter aircraft.

On the bid front Fitch Lovell shares were down by 3p at 142p ahead of this morning's meeting to approve the sale of its Key Markets stores to Safeway. In

contrast, Linford rose by 2p to 268p, boosted by a strong profits and dividend forecast to accompany its rival bid for the Key Markets stores.

A bid approach for Transpennine Paper saw the shares rise by 18p to 53p, although the company has no immediate

plans to make an announcement. Similarly, speculation continued to surround the intentions of a large Turkish owned shareholding in Belgrave (Blackheath), the forging and machining company whose shares were again busy, rising 22p to 122p.

Bellair was another strong market rising by 12p to 265p on O.C. talks while speculative demand boosted Wolverhampton Laundry by 7p to 40p. United Parcells by 11p to 126p and Reliant Motor by 5p to 26p.

There was continuing nervousness about KCA International and KCA Drilling ahead of today's announcement. From Mr Paul Bristol on his proposed scheme to reorganise the companies. KCA International shares were down 1p at 46p, while KCA Drilling was unchanged at 44p.

The USM's first tender sale proved to be a great success. Micro Focus, the computer software company, achieved a 240p striking price at which its offer for sale was oversubscribed three times. Trading in the shares begins next Wednesday.

Among the leaders Glaxo Holdings continued its recent heavy fall coming down by 70p to 795p. ICI was down by 4p at 444p and Tate & Lyle down 18p at 322p.

Camrex, the paints company, made the running in the building sector with its shares gaining 10p to 66p after a £6.1m bid from Ruberoid, which was 5p off at 260p.

THE TIMES 1000

1982/1983

The World's Top Companies

The 1000 largest companies in the world by turnover

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-937 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 688.6 down 4
FT 100: 81-04 down 0.09
FT All Share: 417.74 down 1.60
Bargains: 13,583
Tying Mail USM Index: 188.4 up 0.4
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones: 8553.90 down 37.68
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 952.98 up 9.96
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average latest 1213.62 down 6.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5895 up 10 pts
Index 84.0 up 0.1
DM 3.8450 up 0.225
FF unchanged
Yen 363.25 up 0.25
Dollar
Index 121.5 up 0.1
DM 2.4373 down 7 pts
Gold
\$439.50 down \$4.25
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$439.75
Sterling \$1.5885

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/4-8 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month 12 1/2-13 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Scheme
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period April 6 to May 31,
1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bural 311 up 19p
Cooper Patons 75 1/2 up 4 1/2
Lee Cooper 130p up 10p
Lifood Hidge 268p up 20p
Man Agcy Music 121p up 7p
Trans Paper 50p up 17p
Harlow Rand 775p down 8p
Beecham 385p down 8p
Fisons 589p down 8p
Massey Ferg 365p down 50p
Minorese 828p down 25p
Schroders 470p down 15p

TODAY

Interim Reliant Motors
Finals James Beattie, M. J. Gleeson Group, King and Shanon, Richardson Westgarth.
Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (April). Usable steel production (April).

BOC profits fall 22pc

BOC International, the industrial gases group, has announced a 22 per cent fall in half-yearly pretax profits from £46.6m to £36.1m, putting into doubt the salary of Britain's highest paid man, Mr Richard Giordano, the group's chief executive.

Although the company anticipated that earnings will rise during the remainder of the year, they are likely still to finish the year as a whole substantially down on the £112.1m made last time.

Whether this will affect Mr Giordano's salary, which last year rose from £477,000 to £579,000, is a matter of conjecture.

"Contrary to belief, my salary is not linked to profit performance," Mr Giordano said yesterday. "The board decides my salary which does not necessarily go up or down with profits."

Investors' Notebook, page 28

OVERSUBSCRIBED: The offer of shares in International Income Property has been oversubscribed. S. G. Warburg merchant bankers, announced yesterday. Applications were received for 1.52 million shares compared with the million on offer at 587p.

SHARE SUCCESS: The USM's first share sale by tender proved a resounding success yesterday when offer for sale of 2.3 million shares in Micro Focus Group, the computer software company was three times oversubscribed. A striking price of 240p was fixed yesterday morning against a basic price of 155p.

DEBT PLANS: Debt restructuring proposals to ease Venezuela's cash crisis will be given to international banks by the end of May. Señor Sosa was optimistic about refinancing around \$13bn of debts. Venezuela's total external debt is estimated at \$36bn.

JOBLESS RISE: Australian unemployment rose to 715,000, or 10.3 per cent of the workforce, in April. The March figure was an upward revised 701,900 (10.1 per cent) and the April 1982 total was 440,100 (6.4 per cent).

WALL STREET

Share prices retreat

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks retreated from their initial advance yesterday and were lower in active trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was down about three points after giving up an early rise of three. Declines had a slim lead over advances. Mr James M. Meyer, vice-president at Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, said he doubted that interest rates would fall much lower. Earnings will be the criteria for judging stocks as demonstrated by the responses to both good earnings and poor.

"There is nothing on the international front indicating any imminent change. We are in the middle of the quarter so earnings expectations are less a factor and there is no institutional window dressing at present. The market's advance is slowing while some investors are taking profits. The long holders have made money but now you must be a stock picker," he added.

General Electric was off 1/4 at 100 1/2, with General Motors unchanged at 68 1/2. International Business Machines off 1/4 at 115 1/2. Eastman Kodak up 1/4 at 73 1/2. Honeywell unchanged at 120 1/2. Monsanto down 1 at 85 1/2. Allied Corp unchanged at 48 1/2.

Electric Power was 77 1/2 down 1 1/2 with Federal Express 81 down 1. Exxon 34 1/2 unchanged. K-Mart 31 1/2 up 1/2. United Technologies 72 off 1 1/2. Teledyne 140 1/2 down 2 and Texas Instruments 149 1/2 off 1 1/2.

Mobil Corp was up 1/4 to 31 1/2. Massey Ferguson, which had risen on heavy trading recently, was off 1/4 to 3 1/2.

Burger King plans big expansion

By Our Commercial Editor
Fast-food chain, Burger King, which in the United States claims to be number two to McDonald's, is revamping its troubled European operation with substantially increased investment and promotion in Britain.

It is aiming to build its business in Britain to at least 50 to 60 outlets within three to four years.

At present, Burger King has nine outlets in Britain, compared with McDonald's 130 outlets. It plans to have a bigger equity stake rather than relying on growth through franchising.

Burger King, which in the United States has aimed up-market of McDonald's and claims to be more profitable as a result, has had considerable losses in Europe.

Turnover in Europe last year was about \$65m (£14.4m) and losses may have been about \$10m, largely in West Germany and Britain. Burger King's Spanish operation is reported to be making a profit.

Burger King, a subsidiary of the United States-based Pillsbury Company, will spend \$16m on developing and buying outlets in Europe in the coming year, according to Mr Jeffrey Campbell, newly-promoted president of the company. The European network of 69 outlets will be increased to between 300 and 400 by 1988.

Burger King, however, faces stiff competition from the Wendy's chain, which already has outlets in Britain, and in the United States.

Package includes 1,900 jobs in 242 shops and factory

John Collier management plans buyout from UDS group

By Jonathan Clark

The management of John Collier is proposing to buy the men's clothing chain from the UDS retailing group which Hanson Trust now controls.

The proposed deal would involve all 242 of the John Collier shops as well as the Hartlepool factory and involves 1,900 jobs.

The Collier plan has been put together by Laurie Milbank, stockbroker, and Herbert Smith, a firm of London solicitors.

The value placed on John Collier by the deal is unclear, but the cash for it would be raised by the sale and leaseback of shops to institutional buyers. The John Collier and Richard Shops chain have together been valued at £113m but the Collier proposals do not involve Richard Shops.

However, the Richard Shops management has previously indicated that it might try to organize a management buy out if Hanson gained control.

The Collier plan was first made known to Hanson when it bid for UDS in February. Talks are believed to have been held through the office of Mr Tony Alexander, one of the new Hanson directors on the UDS board. But last night, Mr Martin Taylor, Hanson finance director said: "We have no comment to make on any negotiation we may be having with anyone."

The Burton Group says it is still negotiating with Hanson to buy both Richard Shops and John Collier, for which it offered UDS £78m as defence against the first bid from the privately controlled Bassishaw.

Since Hanson's bid, Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, has offered to raise the price by £25m. Burton still believes a deal is on the cards.

However, Bassishaw has also shown an interest in the two chains as a consolation prize and it has retained its large shareholding in UDS.

This stake has prevented



Halpern: still negotiating with Hanson Trust

Hanson Trust from gaining full ownership and could be used as a lever to sell off two chains, which would then be run by Mr Cyril Spencer, Bassishaw's chief executive and a former chairman of Burton.

Hanson Trust's auditors have spent three weeks going over the Collier books as well as those in

the rest of the group. It is unlikely to decide whether to keep the shops or sell them until the auditors' report.

So far Hanson has given no clue to either the Collier management or to Laurie Milbank about what it thinks of the proposals.

No merchant bank is in-

Bid battle looming for Key Markets

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading yesterday cleared the way for a takeover battle for the Key Markets chain, part of the Fitch Lovell food manufacturing and sales group.

There is increasing City speculation that Safeway Stores, whose £34.8m deal on Key Markets with Fitch Lovell has been topped by £3m by a bid from Linfood Holdings, is about to raise its bid. But Safeway would not comment on this yesterday.

A later possibility is an increased bid by Linfood for the whole of Fitch Lovell.

The battle began with Linfood's £75m bid for the whole group. Fitch's deal with Safeway has largely been interpreted as a defensive move, although Fitch hotly contests this.

The Monopolies Commission yesterday cleared this original Linfood bid. The bid was unlikely to reduce competition either at wholesale or retail level, the commission decided. It might even increase competition in retailing by creating a larger unit to stand up against the bigger multiple grocery chains, the commission argued.

In a separate move, Lord Cookfield, Secretary of State for Trade, announced that on the recommendation of the Office of Fair Trading the Safeway bid for Key Markets would not be referred for monopoly investigation.

If Safeway acquired Key Markets, it would hold 3.2 per cent of the packaged grocery market. If Linfood won, its Gateway chain combined with Key Markets would create a chain with a 4 per cent market share.

There are crucial elements of timing in the bids battle. Linfood's increased bid for Key Markets is an appeal over the heads of the Fitch Lovell board to the company's shareholders. There is an extraordinary meeting called for May 20 at which shareholders will decide on the Safeway bid.

Mr Alex Monk, Linfood chairman, has made it clear that if the Safeway deal goes through



Hankins: 'Confusing'

Linfood will not renew its bid for Fitch Lovell.

Linfood yesterday pointed out that it had three weeks under Takeover Panel rules in which to decide whether to mount a new bid for the whole group.

Linfood's original bid for the group lapsed automatically when it referred to the Monopolies Commission.

It is a clear option for Safeway to improve its bid before the May 20 meeting. There appears to be room for this although by no means all 106 Key Markets outlets would seem to dovetail with Safeway's existing style of trading.

A typical Safeway outlet was 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of selling area. Only 23 of the Key Markets outlets are of 15,000 square feet or more.

Linwood welcomed the Monopolies report. It also withdrew its writ for declaration against Fitch Lovell which it took out after Fitch produced its defence document.

At Fitch Lovell, Mr Geoffrey Hankins, Chief executive, said last night: "The Linfood offer on Key Markets has to be considered. We are seeking to clarify some of the points in the Linfood documents."

It is clear that for the moment the Fitch Lovell board will have to remain flexible over offers for Key Markets.

Fitch Lovell shares closed 3p down at 142p yesterday. Linfood, after the optimistic estimate of increased profits, rose 20p to 268p.

Tighter money predicted

By Graham Searjeant

A number of monetary economists in the City believe that the Government will have to tighten up on the money supply and public spending if it is returned to office at the election.

This view has grown significantly since the latest figures for money supply and central government borrowing, published this week.

Mr Roger Nightingale, economics director at brokers Hoare Govett, said yesterday: "Stack money policy has financed the retail sales and housing boom. A returned right of centre Government is bound to tighten up."

Hoare Govett's economic review concludes that "there would be no need to continue the almost reckless expansion of credit which characterized the six months centred on last Christmas. Instead, the Government might feel that it was worth saving its capacity for refutation for a more rainy day".

Mr Stephen Lewis of brokers Phillips & Drew also suggests that there could be a tightening of policy in response to the money and spending figures and that interest rate prospects for the second half of the year are not as good as they were.

This would not necessarily mean that interest rates would rise, merely that they would not fall in line with the expected drop in interest rates abroad.

Mr Nightingale concedes that if the Government wins the election and the United States adopts a permissive money policy ahead of the 1984 presidential election, there could be a strong surge in sterling that would encourage cuts in British interest rates.

Moreover, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who will take over as governor of the Bank of England shortly after the election, suggested this week that interest rates should fall soon.

Economists at the Bank of England have taken the most cautious view of the recovery.

Brazil wants loan terms relaxed

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Brazil, which owes more \$80bn (£51bn) in foreign debts, is expected to appeal for more time from the International Monetary Fund to meet the strict economic conditions attached to its emergency loan package arranged only two months ago.

Señor Carlos Langoni, governor of Brazil's central bank, is due in Washington next week for emergency talks with the IMF.

Brazil's request comes at a time when world leaders are expressing growing fears of a "second round" liquidity crisis among heavily indebted nations which have been forced to reschedule their debts and arrange emergency "bailout programmes" over the past year.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, said in a speech in Paris on Monday that "second round difficulties" could not be ruled out, particularly among hard-pressed Latin American nations which have accumulated a large portion of the world's debt.

Mr Regan's remarks coincided with a number of unsettling developments which point to

growing difficulties among the debtor nations.

Chile, for example, disclosed recently that not long after negotiating a special IMF loan, it was unable to meet the conditions attached to the loan and was likely to need even more financial help.

Venezuela, another large debtor, met its foreign bank creditors earlier this week to formulate the basis for debt rescheduling negotiations.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed in Switzerland that eight central banks had granted Hungary an emergency \$100m (£63.7m) bridging loan through the Bank for International Settlements to tide it over a temporary liquidity shortage until it receives the next portion of a standby IMF credit due in June.

Brazil has apparently fallen behind on an estimated \$800m of payments due on its debt.

The troubled nation is due to draw down the next payment from its IMF loan at the end of this month but will be unable to get it, without a special dispensation from the IMF board.

Latin debt, page 21

British Shipbuilders lands £40m Mexican order

By Jonathan Davis

British Shipbuilders yesterday won a £40m order from Mexico to build two ships which will provide work for 1,200 men at a Sunderland yard for two years.

Financing of the deal is being guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, in what amounts to its first big major loan guarantee to Mexico since the country's debts crisis last summer.

The order for two 45,700-tonne deadweight container bulk carriers has been placed with the state corporation's Sunderland Shipbuilders subsidiary by Transpacmar Maritima Mexicana.

The badly needed order comes only days after Sir Robert Atkins, the corpora-

tion's chairman, said that losses in the last financial year approached £100m, or 10 times its government loss limit of £10m.

The Sunderland company operates two yards on Wearside with a total workforce of 2,500 men, and the order guarantees the future of one of them, the Deptford yard. The other yard, Pallion, is still looking for orders, and BS said yesterday that despite more than 400 redundancies earlier this year, a further 260 jobs were still at risk.

The new Mexican order was welcomed yesterday by Sir Robert, who is seeking more than 8,500 redundancies as part of a survival plan for the corporation.

The order is being financed by a loan to the Mexican shipping company of more than \$60m. It has been arranged by Grindlay Bradbuts Bank in London, with a guarantee from the ECGD.

This appears to represent some change of policy by the Treasury, which was believed to have clamped down on large ECGD loan guarantees involving Mexico after the threatened default on its debts last August.

Señor Enrique Rojas, chairman of the Mexican shipping group, and Mr Graham Findlay, an assistant director of Grindlay Bradbuts, both said that the ECGD guarantee had been critical to the deal.

Ruberoid offer for Camrex

By Our Financial Staff

Ruberoid, the bituminous covering company chaired by Mr Tom Kenny, has made a £6m bid for Camrex, the specialist paint manufacturers where Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group had a 28 per cent stake.

Camrex, with most of its board away, has issued a holding statement asking shareholders to take no action. There had been no formal contact between the companies, but Mr Kenny and Mr Stanley Clarke, Camrex's chairman, have met unofficially in the past and Dr

John Roberts, Ruberoid's managing director, had visited Camrex's research facilities.

The Hawley Group has already said that it will accept the bid, equivalent to 62 1/2p per share, "in the absence of any higher offer".

The terms are 24 Ruberoid shares for every 100 in Camrex. There is a cash alternative of 58p a share. Full take-up of the share offer would increase Ruberoid's capital by 16 per cent. Ruberoid's shares fell 5p to 260p and Camrex's jumped 9p to 65p.

Transparent Paper bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

A mystery approach for Transparent Paper, which makes plastic wrapping, sent shares in the Lancashire-based company climbing to the highest level since 1979 yesterday.

Transparent Paper said that preliminary talks were underway, but would not reveal the name of the potential bidder. The directors were unavailable for comment.

Employees of the company were told yesterday that an approach had been received but business would continue as

normal: there would be no job losses.

This provoked speculation in the stock market that a rival packaging company could be behind the approach.

Shares in the company closed up 18p at 53p, valuing the group at £3.9m. It is thought that a takeover bid would be pitched at at least 55p.

Transparent Paper has been emerging from a drastic rationalization programme, and lost £2.18m pretax in the year to March 1982.

Government sets tough objectives for MacGregor

NCB told to cut lossmaking pits

By Our Energy Correspondent

The Government has set tough new objectives for the National Coal Board which explicitly require it for the first time to eliminate its loss-making pits.

The objectives were agreed earlier this year with Mr Norman Siddall, the present board chairman, and are certain to form the basis of the mandate given to Mr Ian MacGregor if Mrs Thatcher retains power and he takes over the chairmanship as planned in September.

Although the Government has made no attempt to publicize the new targets, they have clearly played a significant part in the coal board's recent warnings that it is about to accelerate its pit closure programme with the loss of up to 15,000 jobs this financial year alone.

In its agreement with Mr Siddall, the Government says that the basic objective of the coal board must be to earn a satisfactory return on its assets in real terms after payment of social grants-although this return has still to be quantified.

The second objective is the key one. It reads "The NCB should aim at that share of the market which they can profitably sustain in competition with other fuels. The board should not plan on any continuing tranche of sales which will not be profitable. The board should bring its productive capacity into line with its continuing share of the market."

Last week the board announced that it lost more than £100m in the last financial year, despite government deficit grants of £380m. It expects the loss to be even greater this year,



Siddall: agreed objectives

as it continues to produce several million tonnes more coal a year than it can sell. The board has also been set the target of reducing the

operating costs per tonne of coal produced in real terms for both deep-mined and opencast production, although this has not yet been quantified.

The setting of objectives for nationalized industries was one of the recommendations of the still-unpublished Think Tank report which the Government commissioned to investigate methods of improving control over the nationalized industries.

Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, are known to be keen to see a radical restructuring of the coal industry under Mr MacGregor.

Whereas the Government originally planned to phase out all deficit grants to the industry by the current financial year, the grants and losses are continuing to run at a high rate, with little immediate signs of improvement.

City Comment

In defence of the rule book

The Stock Exchange said yesterday that it expects to be in court next January, defending its rule book against the attacks of the Office of Fair Trading. The latter is the agency which maintained for five years that at least some of the Exchange's rules add up to a restrictive practice which might be considered to be against the public interest and which should therefore be prohibited.

As the day of battle draws nearer so the areas of conflict are narrowing. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said yesterday that he believed the market's system of self regulation and surveillance would probably escape challenge, as would the restrictions it places on quoted companies under the listing agreement - the chief of which is that price sensitive information has to be published in the stock market before it is made available elsewhere.

The main thrust of the attack will be on the fixed commissions schedule which means that all brokers charge the same minimum sum for carrying out a purchase or sale of stock, and makes it impossible for one firm to undercut another.

This used to be the pattern on Wall Street, but minimum commissions were swept away in the mid 1970s. Since then, no one could argue that Wall Street or the investor has suffered.

Minimum commissions are hard to defend - which is perhaps why some Stock Exchange sources began yesterday discredibly to lobby the Government, saying that forcing brokers to change their ways could upset the smooth workings of the gilt edge market.

This is so far fetched that for it to be swallowed in Whitehall you would need a Labour government and perhaps even Sir Nicholas would rather abandon his rule book.

Japan Air Lines has new position for super executive.



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JAPAN AIR LINES

Gilts hold well on Tory election hopes

An imminent general election might reasonably be expected to unsettle the gilt market, a sensitive political creature at the best of times.

But the present market is remarkable chiefly for its placidity. Since the date of the election was given at the start of the week, prices have fallen about an eighth of a point in moderate trading.

There are two reasons for the lack of excitement. One is that most market operators, including the fickle foreign holders of government stock, expect a Conservative victory. Further, they think that Labour is unlikely to improve its opinion poll showing sufficiently to unnerve the market.

But the irony is that some market analysts expect a tightening of policy if the Government is returned. They fear that the latest money supply figures—possibly swollen by public sector wage drift—and the inevitable acceleration of inflation later in the year will prompt the authorities either to raise interest rates or to try to soak up the excess liquidity in the system by issuing more paper. Both would be bad for gilt prices.

The second related factor is the diminishing expectations of an interest-rate cut before the election.

The American omens are not good since last week's money supply figures apparently postponed a fall in discount rate.

Money market rates have hardened in Britain, six months

money rising from 10 per cent to 10½.

In the circumstances, some holders of gilts might be tempted to lighten their portfolios over the coming weeks.

BOC

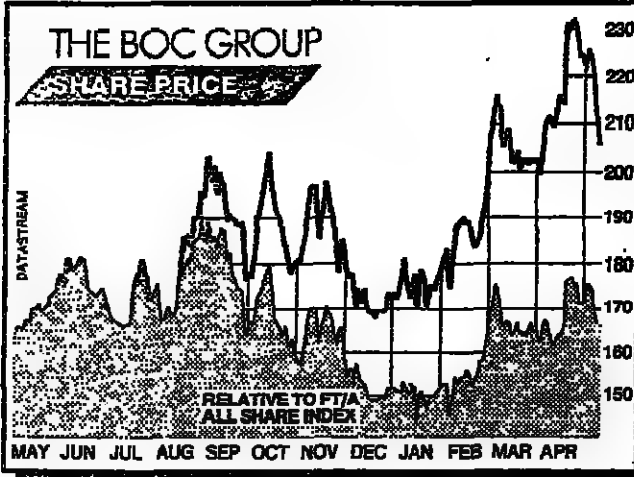
BOC International
Half-year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £36.1m (£46.4m)
Stated earnings 5.48p (8.99p)
Turnover £828.4m (£763)
Net interim dividend 2.73p (2.8p)
Share price 206p down 2p. Yield 4.1%.

A 22 per cent fall in the first half pretax profits of BOC International to £36.1m was almost exactly what the market had expected. But the company still raised the dividend from 2.6p to 2.73p net and expects earnings in the second half to improve.

The half-year figures benefited from currency movements worth about £300,000 and the new practice of capitalizing interest during the current bulge in its spending. This was worth about £4m in extra profits.

Against this was a £9.6m fall to £400,000 in realized stock gains—the hazard of falling inflation. If all these factors are stripped out, the decline in profits is reduced to 12 per cent.

The resilience of BOC profits through four years of recession is a credit to its diversification. BOC has acquired businesses in fields such as health care which have carried on growing through the bad times.



Losses in welding crept up to £8m during the half year and unlike the carbon and carbide interests, there is little prospect of immediate recovery.

The losses help explain the geographical split in profits. In Europe health care activities have considerably boosted returns but overseas has felt most of the blow of welding and carbon losses.

The heavy programme of capital spending—about £400m this year including acquisitions—will begin to tail off in the autumn when the two graphite plants in the United States are completed.

And that is when the substantial rise in profits will begin to come through, especially if the economic recovery in the United States does not prove quite as fragile as the pundits think.

Hawtin

The results from Hawtin, a small manufacturing group, suggest that the recovery may not be as patchy as some of the larger industrial companies have implied. Group losses have been cut from £125,000 to £75,000 pretax but the trading improvement is greater than it seems.

Two non-recurring items make things appear worse than they are: the £55,000 compensation to Mr Frank Hawtin, former chairman, who resigned last October when Mr Leonard Dovey took over and injected

his private textile and property dealing companies, coupled with £133,000 of losses from discontinued activities.

The news is that the company is trading profitably, and that its borrowing have been substantially reduced. But against that, a potential shareholder should note that the quality of earnings in textiles and property is often low, reflecting the risks of the business. Mr Dovey holds a 37.8 per cent stake in the group, which gives him effective control.

It is perhaps wiser then to wait until the profits are in the bag rather than simply premise, and the new management has had longer to prove its worth.

Amaz

Sharp changes of fortune are natural to mining companies, dependent as they are on commodity price cycles over which they exercise little control.

But Amaz, the American natural resources group, has suffered more than most. Net earnings swung from a record \$470m in 1980 to a \$390m (£248m) loss last year. In the first quarter of this year the net loss was \$49m.

Nevertheless, the company is spreading the message that the tide has turned. Mr Pierre Gousseland, Amaz's chairman and president, argued in London yesterday that cash flow had been positive for two successive quarters, that metal prices were picking up, that industrial demand was rising

and inventory rebuilding on the way.

Mr Gousseland was even optimistic about the specialist metal molybdenum. As the world's biggest producer Amaz has carried the brunt of the slump.

All three of its main molybdenum mines—Climax and Henderson in Colorado and Kinsault on British Columbia—are closed.

At the present molybdenum price of about \$4 a pound, however, these mines are roughly covering their costs and Mr Gousseland suggested that they might reopen next year.

Savage cuts in expenditure—capital outlays are to be reduced again this year—and asset disposals have stabilized the financial position and eased the pressure from the banks.

Amaz, however, is in the wrong markets to take early advantage of an economic recovery.

Demand for molybdenum, nickel and tungsten, Amaz's most profitable metal business in better times, comes later in the cycle. Like base metals which go into consumer products, these specialist metals are used by process plant and investment-goods industries.

Even if the recovery does continue, therefore, Amaz will not see the benefits until the fourth quarter at the earliest.

Shareholders who received only a 5 cent dividend in the last quarter of last year should not expect their luck to change quickly.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Warner Estates Holdings Half-year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £1,215,000 (£281,000). Stated earnings, 5.79p (4.28p). Turnover, £4,402,000 (£3,518,000). Net interim dividend, 4p (3.5p). Dividend payable July 4.	Dancers Year 1982. Pretax profit, £404,000 (£271,000). Stated earnings, 3.8p (1.8p). Turnover, £2,856,000 (£2,344,000). Net final dividend, none.
JSD Computer Group Year to 1982. Pretax profit, £392,000. Stated earnings, 3.3p. Turnover, £4,635,000. Dividend payable June 13.	Mintry Half-year to 28.1.83. Pretax loss, £21,000 (profit £107,000). Stated earnings, 9.29p (17.54p). Turnover, £2,422,000 (£3,460,000). Net final dividend, 2p, mkg 4p (7.5p). Dividend payable July 15.
Porter Chadburn Year to 31.3.83. Pretax loss, £245,480 (£180,788 loss). Stated loss, 17.19p (8.16p). Turnover, £13,581m (£13,582m). Net final dividend, 0.35p (same). Dividend payable July 4.	Holt Hoyd International Year to 28.2.83. Pretax profit, £2,061,000 (£2,070,000). Stated earnings 1.1p (5.6p). Net final dividend, 1.67p, mkg 3.17p (same). Dividend payable July 29.
Hartono Group Year 1982. Pretax profit £297,000 (£27,000). Stated earnings 0.71p (0.18p). Turnover, £4,897,000 (£4,814,000). Net final dividend, 0.175p (nil). Dividend payable July 1.	Kazuo Selangor Rubber Year to 1982. Pretax profit £334,000 (£295,000). Stated earnings 20.02p (18.36p). Turnover, £749,000 (£567,000). Net final dividend 8p, mkg 13.5p.

Lloyds and Scottish rallies

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds and Scottish, the finance house controlled by Lloyds Bank and in which Royal Bank of Scotland has a large minority stake, staged a partial recovery in profits in the six months to March 31. Profits before tax increased to £10.6m, compared with £6.5m in the very depressed first half of 1981-82.

However, profits were still well below the £12.8m of the first half of 1980-81 and, after

Lloyds and Scottish
Half-year to 31.3.83.
Pretax profit £10.6m (£6.5m)
Stated earnings 5.15p (3.58p)
Net interim dividend 1p (1.87p)
Dividend payable 8.7.83

tax and minority interests, the recovery is less impressive. The tax charge was £1.4m higher at £3.4m and minority interests soared from £187,000 to £1.06m, leaving attributable profits up from £4.2m to £6.1m.

The group has also had to provide for expected losses on

closure and disposals of a subsidiary and this has led to a £3.03m extraordinary debit.

Lloyds and Scottish said that the better performance was due to a more buoyant market and the lower cost of funds.

In January, after announcing a sharp downturn in annual profits from £29.2m to £10.7m, Lloyds and Scottish raised £71.3m from shareholders with a rights issue.

The interim dividend has been reduced from 1.87p to 1p. Last year's final dividend was cut by 30 per cent to 3.87p.

Sharp fall at Bank of Ireland

By Our Banking Correspondent

The Bank of Ireland reported a sharp drop in full-year profits from Ir£56.6m to Ir£48.9m before tax in the year to March 31. Earnings per share declined from 82.9p to 66.2p but the group is paying a second interim dividend of 3.5p and additional dividend of 10.5p out of undistributed profits leaving the total for the year unchanged at 22p.

To bring issued capital more in line with capital employed the bank is proposing to issue Ir£21.8m of reserves for a scrip issue on the basis of Ir£1 of capital stock for each Ir£2 of capital stock.

On a current cost basis profits were down from Ir£22.8m to Ir£15.2m.

In the first half of the year the bank reported a sharp rise in bad debt provisions but said it expected that the problems in the first half would prove to have been exceptional.

Hotels and canned beer lift Vaux

By Jonathan Clare

Slack sales of draught beer and the effects of the Channel 4 dispute which has hit Tye Tea Television where Vaux Breweries has a large stake will depress profits of the Sunderland-based company in the second half. But the first six months saw Vaux profits increase from £3.5m to £4.2m helped by canned beer and the

Vaux Breweries
Half-year to 19.3.83.
Pretax profit £4.2m (£3.5m)
Turnover £48.4m (£42.2m)
Net interim dividend 3.025p (2.75p)
Share price 235p, down 8p

hotel division which continues to underpin the business.

However, there should be further benefits from the new canning plant.

The results include 24 weeks

of trading from the London International Hotel against just two weeks last time and 20 weeks profits from Sheffield Refreshment Houses. Finance charges have increased from £257,000 to £510,000.

More tourists should help boost the hotels. Sales of property should also bring in about £500,000, similar to last year. Profits of about £11.5m are possible this year.

SKF

Interim statement

SKF Group sales for the first three months of 1983 rose to 4,045 million Swedish kronor (Sk), 10% up on the corresponding 1982 period. Profit before exchange differences was 103 million kronor (244).

Contributory causes of the profit decline were the costs involved for short time working and the idle-capacity cost through regulating inventories by means of production cuts. Order intake and shipments in both the steel and bearing sectors increased towards the end of the period.

Comparison tables including the financial year 1982:

Mkr=million Swedish kronor		January 1 to March 31		Jan 1 to Dec 31	
		1983	1982	1982	
Net sales	Mkr	4,045	3,671	14,358	100.0
Other operating income	Mkr	62	22	235	
Operating revenue	Mkr	4,107	3,693	14,591	
Cost of goods sold	Mkr	2,934	2,480	9,899	68.9
Selling, administrative and R & D expenses	Mkr	860	758	3,140	21.9
Operating income before depreciation	Mkr	313	455	1,552	10.8
Scheduled depreciation	Mkr	124	120	468	3.2
Operating income after depreciation	Mkr	189	335	1,084	7.6
Financial income and expenses—net	Mkr	-86	-91	-427	-3.0
Income before exchange differences	Mkr	103	244	657	4.6
Earnings per Parent Company share, Sk		1.80	4.65	12.50	
Capital expenditure, Mkr		119	100	709	
Average number of employees		42,272	49,390	47,138	
Group sales by product field*	Mkr				
Rolling bearings	Mkr	2,960	2,610	10,400	68.1
Steel	Mkr	590	650	2,370	15.5
Cutting tools	Mkr	160	150	570	3.7
Other products	Mkr	540	460	1,930	12.7
Total	Mkr	4,250	3,870	15,270	100.0

*Sales figures include internal deliveries between the product fields.

WALL STREET

SEC faces inquiry on Ashland Oil

Washington (NYT) - The Securities and Exchange Commission, under Congressional criticism for its enforcement activities, now faces an inquiry into its failure to follow up charges of questionable payments by Ashland Oil to government officials of Oman, according to Congressional sources.

In 1981, questions were raised within Ashland and the commission about company deals in the previous year worth millions of dollars, with government officials of Oman as part of a company oil-purchase deal, Ashland officials say.

A Congressional subcommittee is trying to determine, among other things, why the commission has yet to obtain any documents from Ashland, even though the commission was first told two years ago that the company may have improperly paid Oman officials as part of the oil deal, the sources add.

Ashland, based in Kentucky, has long been one of the nation's leading independent oil refiners. In the late 1970s, the company sold most of its

domestic oil production and exploration interests, leaving it vulnerable to the tightening international crude oil market in 1979 and 1980.

The commission's officials have demanded the agency's enforcement record in general, maintaining that pursuit of corporate misconduct cases is not a priority. However, a spokesman said that a matter of policy the commission does not comment on continuing investigations.

Ashland Oil, in a prepared statement in response to questions, said an outside law firm, had been retained in 1981 after internal concerns were raised that certain improprieties may have occurred with respect to purchases of crude oil in 1980 from the Government of Oman.

The law firm told the company's directors that United States law had not been violated and that the company had no obligation to disclose the investigation or its results, the statement added.

Ashland also said it was cooperating with what it called an informal review of the matter by the commission.

	May 11	May 10	May 11	May 10	May 11	May 10	May 11	May 10
Amalgamated	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	215
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APPOINTMENTS

Key to head Minet Brokers

The chairman of a proposed company, Minet Insurance Brokers, will be Mr C. W. Key, who will in addition continue in his role as deputy chairman and chief executive of Minet Holdings (Pty), South Africa. Mr R. E. Steyn will be the deputy chairman of the new company. Mr Key and Mr Steyn are both directors of Minet Holdings plc.

Professor Michael S. Scott Morton has been appointed a non-executive board member of CL from June 7.

Mr Clive F. Williams has been appointed managing director of Alexander & Alexander, the new UK broking operation which incorporates the retail divisions of Alexander Howden Insurance Brokers. He has resigned from the London Life Association.

Mr D. Meisnerhagen has been elected chairman and Mr M. H. McAlpine and Sir John Cuckney have been re-elected deputy chairmen of Royal Insurance.

Mr Graham Leake has been appointed managing director of the engineering division of Valor. He fills the vacancy created by the departure of Mr Bob Ing.

Mr Luke Meisnerhagen has been made a director and deputy chairman of Moorgate Investment Trust.

Mr David Alderson has been appointed manager at National Westminster Bank's Hongkong branch. He succeeds Mr Peter Phelan who will be taking up a new appointment in Paris on completion of his tour of duty.

Mr John Bridle, Mr Jesse Castellvi and Mr Tim Smart have been made directors of William Grant and Sons Distillers.

Mr David Jude has become deputy treasurer of National Westminster Bank's domestic banking division. He succeeds Mr John Leopold who becomes treasurer.

Mr David Hilder becomes service director at British Gas headquarters from June 1. He has been director of marketing with South Eastern Gas since 1979.

Mr David Amatt has been appointed marketing director of Henry Wigfall & Son. He was previously marketing manager. Mr Thomas Cole, previously marketing director, now assumes the position of commercial director.

Caroline Atkinson examines two countries' attempts to avoid financial collapse

Mexico and Brazil at precipice

Bankers and international officials are watching anxiously to see if Mexico and Brazil, the world's two biggest borrowers, can make it through the year without tipping into default. Both are still skating close to the edge of bankruptcy and both will probably need more money in the coming months.

Most experts believe that the two countries will avoid financial collapse. But their attempts to do so are already having a drastic effect at home as they cut imports, try to raise exports and squeeze their domestic economies.

As these and other developing countries are pushed by the debt crisis into strict austerity programmes at home, the rest of the world is likely to feel some of the effects. The United States suffered a sharp drop in exports to Mexico last year as bankers stopped wanting to lend and Mexico was unable to go on buying without new loans.

White House officials estimate that a reduction in sales to the Third World, as a result of the debt crisis, could cut US growth by 1 percentage point this year.

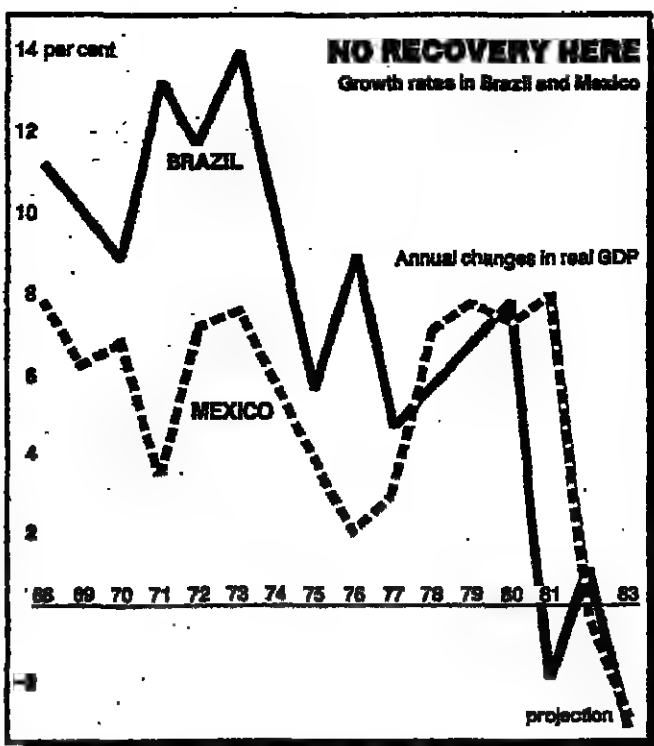
The extra unemployment that this will cause is an unwelcome problem for administration officials. But it pales beside the cost for the borrowing countries themselves of trying to restore their financial respectability.

Jobless figures for developing countries such as Mexico and Brazil, are a poor guide, even when they are available, to what, in industrialized countries, is known as "unemployment".

In Brazil there is no unemployment benefit and in Mexico almost none, so that few people can afford not to work although they are not working.

In both countries, a factory worker made redundant is likely to search for some marginal employment, such as selling lottery tickets, rather than stay without a job at all. Many try to go back to the land. But there are now few real job opportunities in the rural areas either, and poverty is rife there.

In both Mexico and Brazil, there has been a steady increase in the number of jobs merely to absorb the rapidly growing labour force. Instead, the number of industrial jobs has been shrinking. In Sao Paulo, which accounts for more than 40 per cent of total industrial output in Brazil, manufacturing



employment has plunged by more than 20 per cent since its peak at the end of 1980.

There are no good figures for Mexican unemployment, but declining output last year and a deeper drop expected this year

unwilling government of Sef José López Portillo to give up its dream of rapid growth and development. Once foreign bankers stopped wanting to lend to Mexico last year, growth slumped. Instead of the 8 per cent annual rate of growth aimed at by Sef López Portillo, the economy stopped expanding altogether. Private investment plunged by 15 per cent.

Government spending continued to climb for a while last year after the collapse of the private economy. But by the second half of the year, real government spending began to fall, with state investment bearing the brunt. If Mexico is to hold to the strict targets for spending and borrowing that it has promised the IMF, in exchange for a three-year credit and the agency's seal of approval, the public sector will shrink further.

The IMF asked for a near halving of the budget deficit in relation to gross domestic product this year - from 16.5 per cent in 1982 to 8.5 per cent and for a further reduction in 1984.

On the bright side, the IMF has told commercial bankers that Mexico is making good progress in meeting its policy targets. But to a large extent this

success, particularly in turning the trade deficit into a small surplus last year, is simply a mirror of how weak the economy is.

The new government of Sef Miguel de la Madrid which took office in December says that it is determined to hold to the IMF-agreed programme. But ministers recently warned a high level delegation of US officials in Mexico City, including Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, that the social and political costs of reining in the economy could be considerable.

Private consumption has held up surprisingly well, but as the recession continues, and government subsidies are lifted on a wide range of products, from tortillas to petrol, this is unlikely to last.

Mexican officials want the Americans to make it easier for them to sell their exports in the US. But although US officials are constantly aware that hard times across the border are likely to swell the numbers of unwanted illegal immigrants into the US, they are also more sensitive to the demands of their own workers for protection. Mr Regan predicted after

the meetings that the Mexican economy would continue to decline for some months this year, although he held out the hope that the US recovery now underway could feed through to Mexico by the end of the year.

The pattern of the Brazilian recession is similar to that in Mexico, with investment down sharply but consumption not yet too depressed. However, the Brazilian recession started earlier, as the country had no oil to shield it from the slow-down in the world economy.

After barely threatened stop leading in late 1980, the military government brought in austerity measures to slow the economy and to reassure its creditors and started to pay more for the money it wanted to borrow. For a while this

worked, but after the Mexican financial crisis last summer, bankers stopped lending to Brazil too, forcing the country to the IMF for help.

Brazil has now agreed to another round of austerity measures, which economists believe will cut output by as much as 3 per cent to 4 per cent this year.

Cuts in government spending, advised by the IMF, have so far fallen predominantly on investment, with capital goods production and construction down sharply. Retail sales remain relatively buoyant but, as in Mexico, rising unemployment and falling wages are expected to harm consumption.

In Brazil, as in Mexico, officials look to the U.S. economy to pull them out of trouble.

Brazil's was a success story in the 1970s, despite the blow to its economy from the oil-price increases of 1973 and 1979. Oil imports account for about half of the country's total import bill so that, unlike Mexico, Brazil has been helped by the recent decline in prices.

This will not be nearly enough, however, to offset the effects on growth of the drying-up of the foreign credit. Brazil built up its economy on loans from overseas, borrowing to improve its industrial sector, to build alternative energy sources, and money seems to have been better spent than the foreign cash that went into Mexico, and Brazil's long-term prospects as an industrializing and exporting country look better than Mexico's.

But the prospects for expansion are dim. The trade targets agreed with the IMF were extremely ambitious - the country is aiming for a 56bn trade surplus this year - and will meet only if domestic demand and imports are held down tightly. Although the Government is doing less well on the other IMF targets for spending and borrowing, officials still say they intend to meet them this year.

Neither Brazil nor Mexico appears on the verge of revolution - one left-wing economist in Rio said that the unemployed are no danger to the Government because they have no power. But the depth of the recession in both countries is unprecedented for the post-war period.

Recession in both countries seems certain to continue

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Statistics, like politics, are very much the art of the possible. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the recent ringing declarations by government energy ministers that we are on the verge of a new boom in North Sea development activity, thanks largely - so they claim - to the oil taxation concessions in the last Budget.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, and his oil minister, Mr Hamish Gray, have been telling all and sundry since the Budget that they expect development approvals for new fields to come through at the impressive rate of one every six to eight weeks.

This claim, it is no secret, has been greeted with some amusement by the oil industry, which simply does not believe it, and by not a little embarrassment by the Government's own officials, who (to put it diplomatically) would probably not be prepared to bet their index-linked pensions on the prediction coming true.

It is noticeable that the first time Mr Lawson made this remark it was put out by the Conservative Central Office rather than with the imprimatur of the Department of Energy. By Monday this week, however, he was telling MPs that it was an official "best estimate" by the department.

There is some irony too in being asked to swallow such bullish remarks from a minister who not only consistently argued while at the Treasury that North Sea taxes were too low but who also frequently asserted that making forecasts in the energy business is as hazardous as it is fruitless.

Such is politics, of course. But is the forecast boom actually going to materialize? The consensus appears to be yes - at least up to a point. Mr Lawson's figures have not just been plucked from thin air. The Government has identified 17 fields which it has had preliminary or well advanced discussions about development with other companies.

If you assume, as Mr Lawson does, that they will all come to fruition over the next two years, that works out neatly (allowing for public holidays anyway) at the rate of one every six weeks.

Industrial notebook
Oil figures and the art of the possible

The figure itself is fairly meaningless. It smacks just a little of Mr Healey's famous election-time boast that inflation "was running at the rate of" eight per cent. It is certainly not the whole answer. The new fields will all be smaller than the ones that have gone before. Some have been on the cards for some time, and would have been developed anyway. Others are gas fields, which do not benefit from the tax changes and owe little if anything to the Government's breaking of the British Gas Corporation monopoly over gas supplies.

Equally, companies and Whitehall officials are sceptical on how quickly the development approvals will in fact materialize, given the continuing uncertainty over oil prices and the delays that have been experienced in the past.

And nobody, including the ministers, claims that the first orders from these new fields will come to the rescue of the struggling platform and module construction yards for at least a year, and probably longer.

Nevertheless, without doing Mr Lawson's rose-tinted spectacles, it is perfectly possible to be optimistic about the future of the North Sea and our ability to retain long term self-sufficiency in oil.

Labour's willingness to let the oil tax changes through this week suggests that the necessary fiscal stimulus to new developments will survive any election outcome.

The North Sea is still very productive. Oil is being discovered with great frequency, albeit in smaller economically marginal quantities. The Government deserves the credit for stepping up the rate of licensing and exploration drilling, which must be the basis of any sensible depletion policy.

The only thing that sticks in the craw of the industry is being asked to be grateful for the tax changes that should, by universal consent, have been made 12 to 18 months ago. Having said that, the industry will almost certainly prefer another dose of Mr Lawson to the threatened return, under Labour, of an interventionist department and State oil company.

Jonathan Davis

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Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

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...and the

PREQUALIFICATION TO TENDER
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
Roads and Bridges Department
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CUCHAMANO-TETE-ZOBEWE ROAD (EN 103)

The Government of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique will shortly embark on the reconstruction of the Cuchamano-Tete-Zobwe Road (EN 103) linking Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. The Government have recently secured a loan for this project from the Kuwait Fund and Arab Economic Development.

The Cuchamano-Tete-Zobwe Road extends for approximately 270 km across the Tete

Provision of, maintenance and repair of the road surface and drainage system for a 10 km stretch of road in the district of Inhassoro, Mozambique. The project will include the construction of a new drainage surfacing in areas throughout the length of the road with some widening and other improvements. Detailed engineering designs and tender documents for the project have been prepared by the consulting firm indicated below.

The Government of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique now wish to engage a contractor for this reconstruction. In accordance with the regulations, the loan contractors tendering for this project must be acceptable to the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Firms suitably experienced for the work and who are interested in tendering are invited to apply for prequalification documents to either of the addresses below. Only firms who are prequalified will be permitted to tender for the work.

The closing date for receipt of the prequalification documents is the 18th July, 1983.

	Address:	
Departamento Estradas e Pontes, Ministerio Obras Publicas e Habitacao, Rua Joaquim Lepa No. 22, 2 Andar, C.P. 403 Maputo, Mozambique. Telex 6-535 EPAT MO.		The Consultant Roughton & Partners, 52 Henstead Road, Southampton, England. Telex 477416 RAPCON G..

PUBLIC NOTICES

Review of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978

The Rt Hon Sir George Baker OBE who has accepted the invitation of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the Rt Hon James Prior MP to carry out a review of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978, has begun his Review.

His Review will be conducted in private but the report will be published in full.

Sir George Baker will welcome submissions on any matters falling within his terms of reference. These are as follows:

Accepting that temporary emergency powers are necessary to combat sustained terrorist violence, and taking into account Lord Jellicoe's review of the working of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1978 as it affects Northern Ireland, to examine the operation of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 in order to determine whether its provisions strike the right balance between the need on the one hand to maintain as fully as possible the liberties of the individuals and on the other to provide the necessary powers to enable the Government to bring the terrorism to an end.

in current and foreseeable incidence of terrorist crime; and to report.
 Submissions should be sent by 31 July to:
 The Rt Hon Sir George Baker OBE,
 Northern Ireland Office
 Great George Street
 LONDON SW1P 3PAJ
 Telephone: (01) 233 3067

Northern Ireland Office
 Stormont House
 BELFAST BT4 3SU
 Telephone: (0232) 761431

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